



Protect vaccine makers from lawsuits: SII CEO to Govt
New Delhi: Vaccine manufacturers need to have protection against all lawsuits for their vaccines especially during a pandemic, Serum Institute of India (SII) Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla said. It is necessary for the government to help spread the right information, he added

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client SATHISHA A S/o.Ashwathappa has entered in to Agreement of Sale for purchase of the Schedule Property from its Owner.

Sri.S.MUNEER @ MUNEER PASHA, S/o.Late Sheik Mohiddin, Aged about 54 years, Residing at No.202, C/o.Raghu, Abbanna Garden, Near Rama Temple, Hgadaduru, Immidihalli Post, Bangalore - 560 066.

Any person's having any claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting Documents to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of this publication, failing which my clients will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Property bearing **Site No.25, Khatha No.108, Property No.105, Situated at Doddabahalalli Village, Biderahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1200 square feet and bounded on the:**

East by: Site No.24,
West by: Site No.26,
North by: Site No.16,
South by: 20 feet Road,
Sd/- A.V.SOMASHEKAR, Advocate
No.64, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, BANGALORE - 560 036
Ph.No.25260773/25260774

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.09-OCE-CN-III-MDU-2020 dated 16.12.2020

The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction-III, Southern Railway, Arasara, Madurai - 625 016, invites e-tender for the work as per Notice inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.irops.gov.in. The Tenderers/ Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net banking, debit card and credit.

Name of work: Proposed new BG line between Madurai and Tulicorin Via Anupukottai : Milavitan-Melamarandur Section : Supply of welding portion of 60 K and 52 Kg for the section between MILAVITTAN and MELAMARANDUR Stations.

Approximate cost of the work: Rs.42,89,800/-
Cost of Tender Form: Rs.0.00
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.85,800/-
Completion period of work: Three months
Closing Date and Time of Tender : 11.00 hrs of 08.01.2021

Date and Time of Tender opening: 11.30 hrs on 08.01.2021

Notice board particulars where details can be obtained : Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction-III, Arasara, Madurai - 16.

The detailed terms and conditions and other details have already been uploaded in the website www.irops.gov.in. The Tender is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction-III, Madurai - 625 016.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **Smt. K.M. Shehila Ujjwal, D/o Sri K.M. Balan, W/o Ujjwal Divakaran**, has lost the below referred Original documents pertaining to Property bearing Site No. 24, Situated at Vinayaka Nagar, Vibhuthipura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, which is morfully described in the Schedule given hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property and a police complaint is filed on 15.10.2020.

Any Person who finds the below Original Documents shall return the same to the undersigned.

(I) Sale Deed dated 02.06.1984, [Document No. 1436/1984-85] of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk,

(II) Sale Deed dated 24.08.2001, [Document No.5952/2001-02] of Book-I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Piece and Parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Site No. 24, Old HASB Khatha No. 2782, then changed as Khatha No. 659, now bearing No.W.R. Pura CMC Khatha No. 862, and now New BBMP Khatha No. 862, Near Page No.25, Situated at Vinayaka Nagar, Vibhuthipura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk.

Measurements: **East to West:** 40 feet, **North to South:** 30 feet, **Totally Measuring:** 1,200 Square feet.

Together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows:-

East by: Property No. 30, **West by:** 20 feet Wide Road, **North by:** Property No.23, **South by:** 20 feet Wide Road.

If any person/institution has any claim or interest of any nature pertaining to aforesaid property and Documents, the said claims along with supporting documents shall be filed with undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding.

SHIVAPRASAD PROPERTY LAW SERVICES LLP
(LLP No.25-3694)

The above Partnership is registered with Limited Liability (LLP) Advocates, Office at No.41/11, 2nd Main, Stipuram, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020, Ph: 080-23851811,
(M) 9844023410, 9141808972
(Timings: 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that our clients have intended to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owners **MR. GANESH RAMDAS, S/o Ramdas A, aged about 51 years, MRS. MAYA VASUDEVA KAMATH W/o Ganesh Ramdas** aged about 47 years, both residing at No. 4201, Nandi Deepa, SOS Post, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore- 560076 (Owners). Owners represent that, they are the absolute owners in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the below mentioned Schedule Property and have marketable right, title and interest therein and apart from him there are no person's having any right, title, claims or interest over the same.

Any person's, having any claim, title, interest or right over the below mentioned Schedule Property may lodge their objections or claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidence with regard to such claims with the undersigned within 15 days hereof, failing which, our clients will proceed to complete the aforesaid sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing a vacant residential site bearing No.146, Khata No.382, formed in Survey No.231, 232 and 233, of K.Narayanapura Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, duly converted for residential purposes vide official memorandum reference No. BDS.ALN.SR(SA)174/001-02, dated 12.12.2001, by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, in the Layout known as 'FERN'S RESIDENCY' situated at K.Narayanapura Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded by:

East by : Site bearing No.148
West by : Road
North by : Site bearing No.137
South by : Site bearing No.145

MEASUREMENT:
East to West: towards North 48 feet and towards South 56 feet;

North to South: towards East 45 feet and towards West 46 feet; in all measuring 2341 Square Feet;

K.S. Devaraj, Partner
MDST Partners-Advocates
No.80, 1st Floor, 5th Main, 15th Cross, Gayathri Devi Park, Vyalikaval, Bangalore - 560003,
+91 9341 4444 91/080 23466529

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

शुद्धिपत्र

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या RE-RDD/SD/HZB/15/2019-20 पीओआर संख्या 237089 (Rural Development) में प्रकाशित निविदा की तिथियों में अपरिहार्य कारणशय निम्नप्रकार से संशोधन किया जाता है:-

क्र०	NOTE :-	NOTE :-
1	3. The Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Self attested photo copy of all uploaded documents must be submitted up to 04.01.2021 by 5.00 PM. If Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate and EMD are not received before mention date and time then the tender of the related tenderer shall not be accepted.	3. The Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Self attested photo copy of all uploads d documents must be submitted up to 29.12.2020 by 5.00 PM. If Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate and EMD are not received before mention date and time then the tender of the related tenderer shall not be accepted.

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल
हजारीबाग

PR 237860 Rural Development(20-21)D



Central Bank of India

Regional Office : Santosh Cinema Complex, 1st Floor, Kempe Gowda Road, K.C. Circle, Bangalore - 560 009.
Phone: 080-2226562/63/64, Fax: 080-22258581
E-Mail: rmbangor@centralbank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Chief Manager & the Authorised Officer of the CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Cantonment Branch, Bangalore under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 07/10/2020 calling upon the borrowers **Mrs. Anitha C and Srinath C** hereinafter referred to as 'the borrowers' to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 35,74,326/-** (Rs. Thirty Five Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Six Only) as on 07/10/2020 plus interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of the said act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rule 2002 on this **17th day of December 2020**.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule property and any one dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, CANTONMENT BRANCH BANGALORE for an amount **Rs. 35,74,326/-** plus further interest and Charges thereon from 07/10/2020 less repayment made, if any.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing of site no.17, khata no.86/3 of property no.86/3 situated at Doddanekundi new extension, at Doddanekundi, K.R. puram, Bangalore east taluk, presently coming under the BBMP limits ward no.85, earlier Mahadevapura CMC ward no.29 measuring east to west 47 feet and north to south 18 feet, totally measuring 846sq. feet

Boundaries of the Property: North by: Remaining portion of the same site no:17 South by: Road, East by: Road, West by: property belonging to Papireddy.

Date : 17.12.2020 Sd/- Authorised Officer / Chief Manager

Place : Bengaluru Central Bank of India



STATE BANK OF INDIA

RETAIL ASSETS CENTRAL
PROCESSING CENTRE (RACP)- II KORAMANGALA,
No. 12, 80 R Road, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034.
Tel: 080-25943803, Fax: 080-25943800 E mail: mainraccp2.cb@sbci.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule 8(1) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (For Immovable Property)

HTL64063071585/40027/HL71

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India**, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 04.05.2019 U/s 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the **Borrower Mr.N Nagaraju, S/o Sri Nareppa, No.145, 13th Ward, Thyagaraja Road, Dodd Maratha Street, Anekal - 562 108, also at: No.36/48, ward No.13, Dodd Maratha Street, Anekal Town, Bangalore District**, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being the amount of **Rs.11,42,742/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Four Ty Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Two Only)** as on 02.05.2019 with future interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Mortgagors, as well as the Public in General that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 14.12.2020

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors in particular, and the Public in General is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property(s), and any dealings with the property(s) will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India, RACP II, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034** for an amount of **Rs. 11,57,032/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Thirty Two only)** as on 14.12.2020 and with further interest from 15.12.2020 and expenses thereon.

The borrower/mortgagor/guarantor's attention is invited to provide of sub - section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal Assessment No.36/48 measuring 948 sq.ft situated at ward No.13, Dodd Maratha Beedi, Anekal Town, Bangalore Dist and bounded on the: **East by :** Remaining property of the same number, **West by :** Siddalingiah's House, **North by :** Markanda Rao's House, **South by :** Road.

Date : 14.12.2020 Sd/- Authorised Officer

Place : Bangalore State Bank of India



THE CITIZEN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED

No.651/A, 1st Main Road, 'D' Block, 2nd Satge, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560010. Phone : 080 - 2332 1923, 2332 8735

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule - 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Where as The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **THE CITIZEN CO-OP BANK LTD.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on below mentioned dates.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **The Citizen Co-Op Bank Ltd., Rajajinagar, Bangalore Branch,** for an amount interest and Other Charges mentioned below.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

(1) Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor :
1. Mrs. J R Ramamani Bai W/o V Prasad 2. Mr. V Prasad H/o J R Ramamani Bai
3. Mr. P Uday Kumar S/o J R Ramamani Bai 4. Mr. P Vishwanath S/o J R Ramamani Bai 5. Mr. P Kiran More S/o J R Ramamani Bai 6. Mr. P. Naresh S/o J R Ramamani Bai all are residing at No.24 'C' Street, Bowe Lane, Ashoknagar, Bangalore-560025.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.11,67,980/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Only) as on 20.01.2020 and interest thereon.

Demand Notice Dated : 31.01.2020 Possession Notice Date: 14.12.2020

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property bearing No.24, Old No.25, PID No.76-84-24, Bowee Lane, 'C' Street, Ashoknagar, Bangalore measuring East to West 16-6 feet and North to South 20-0 feet. Bounded by: East: Private Property, West: Private Property, North: Bowee 'C' Street, South: Government Lane.

(2) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor:
1. Late Sharadamma W/o Late Sadashivann Since Deceased Represented by her Legal Hairs 1. Mr. S Manjunath No. 12/32, 8th Main, 6th Cross, Ganesh Block, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096 2. Mr. Sundar S/o Late Sadashivann No.67/2, 5th Main Road, Nandini Layout, Bangalore 3. Mr. Sridhar S/o Late K Sadashivann No.132/1, 6th Cross, 8th Main, Ganesh Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560096 4. Mrs. S Kala D/o Late K Sadashivann No.21, 1st Main, Thanisandra, 3rd Cross, Ex-Servicemen Layout, Heggadenganar, Bangalore-560077 5. Mrs. S Uma D/o Late K Sadashivann W/o Kadoru No.203, Bang Main Colony, Azhaginagar, Alurmelanganpura, Vellor-09, Tamil Nadu.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.17,79,082/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Eighty Two Only) as on 12.12.2019 and interest thereon.

Demand Notice Dated : 30.12.2019 Possession Notice Date: 14.12.2020

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property bearing Municipal New No.32, Old No.12, PID No.12-7-32, situated at 6th Cross, Ganesh Block, BBMP Ward No.12, Bangalore measuring totally 1056 sq. ft. Bounded By: East: Passage & Papanana's Property, West: Private Property, North: Private Property, South: Road.

Date : 14.12.2020 Sd/- Authorised Officer

Place : Bangalore The Citizen Co-Op Bank Ltd.

केनरा बैंक

Canara Bank



SME PEENYA BRANCH
13th Cross, Peenya Industrial Area,
Bangalore - 560068, Ph: 080-28360037
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

POSSESSION NOTICE

[Appendix IV under Act - rule 8(1)] (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **SME Peenya Branch, Bangalore-560058**. Under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 12.10.2020 calling upon the borrower **M/s Growell CNC Systems, at C 438, A Main, 1st Stage, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 058, Proprietor: Sri. D T Venkatesh S/o Sri A T Thimmalah, Residential Address: No.2480, 1st Main, 4th Block, Ramakrishna Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru - 560 096** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.19,77,79,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crore Seventy Seven Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **16th day of December of the year 2020**.

The Borrower/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs.19,77,79,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crore Seventy Seven Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Only)** as on 30.09.2020 and interest, legal and other charges thereon from 01.10.2020.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property : **Property No. 1:** Factory Land & Building at No. C - 438, 1st Stage, Peenya Industrial Area, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore - 560 058, Area admeasuring 3226 Sq. ft., standing in the name of the unit represented by its proprietor: Sri. D. T. Venkatesh and bounded as under: East by: Road, West by: Shed No. C 427, North by: Shed No. C 439, South by: Shed No. C 437.

Property no. 2: Industrial Land and Building standing in the name of the unit, Represented by its proprietor Sri. D. T. Venkatesh Situated at No.463,Peenya IV Phase Industrial area in sy.no.46 of Nalakaderehalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring 12120 Sq. ft and bounded as under : East by : Remaining portion of plot No.463 retained by the vendor, West by : Plot No.464, North by : Plot No.456, South by :K.I.A.D.B.Road,

Description of the Movable Property : All current assets including stocks and book debts and Plant & Machineries of the concern

Date : 16.12.2020 Sd/-Authorized Officer

Place : Bangalore Canara Bank



Karnataka Bank Ltd.

Your Family Bank across India

Asset Recovery Management Branch, Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/929(CM)
No.39/2, 2nd Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, E-Mail: blr.arn@ktkbank.com
Opp.FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Website: www.karnatakabank.com
Road, Bengaluru-560009 CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of **KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 23.09.2020 calling upon the borrowers /mortgagor/ guarantor **(1).M/s Sri Guru Raghavendra Enterprises, Proprietor: Mr.Srinivasa B.A., #1471, Sri Vinayaka Circle, V.T.Street, Fort, Channappatna-562160 (2).Mr.Srinivasa B.A., S/o Mr.Ananthapadmanabha Rao B.V., (3).Mrs.Pushpalatha S.R., W/o Mr.Srinivasa B.A., (4) Mr.Vinay S., S/o Mr.Srinivasa B.A. No.2 to 4 are addressed at : #1471, V.T.Street, Fort, Channappatna-562160** to repay an aggregate amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.17,75,185=16 [Rupees Seventeen Lakh Seventy Five Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five And Paise Sixteen Only] under PSOD A/c No.1437000600017501** along with future interest from 01-09-2020, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers, mortgagor and the guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, mortgagor, guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this **18th day of December-2020**.

The borrowers/guarantor/mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Karnataka Bank Limited, Channappatna Branch** for an aggregate amount of **Rs.18,51,948=16 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Fifty One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Eight And Paise Sixteen Only) under PSOD A/c No.1437000600017501** along with future interest from 01-12-2020, plus costs.

(The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Sec.13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

Description of the Immovable Property:- All that part and parcel of Residential Property bearing K.No.2648/1471 (Old No.2014/1471), measuring 780 Sq.ft (East to West-40 Feet and North to South-19 ½ Feet) situated at Varadapura Swamy Temple Street, Fort, Channappatna Town along with building with Ground Floor measuring 576 Sq.ft and First Floor measuring 576 Sq.ft totally measuring 1152 Sq.ft constructed thereon belonging to Mrs.Pushpalatha S.R.

Boundaries as per documents: East: 10 feet Road; West: Site of A.V.Bhagya; North: Site of C.V.Roop; South: Property of Mr.Venkatesha Lyengar.

Place : Channappatna Town Sd/- Chief Manager &

Date : 18.12.2020 Authorised Officer

For Karnataka Bank Ltd.,



Karnataka Bank Ltd.

Your Family Bank across India

Asset Recovery Management Branch, Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/929(CM)
No.39/2, 2nd Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, E-Mail: blr.arn@ktkbank.com
Opp.FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Website: www.karnatakabank.com



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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INDIA RECORD LOWEST TEST SCORE, LOSE TO AUSTRALIA

Team India collapsed to its lowest Test score of 36 as Australia trounced them in an eight-wicket win in Adelaide on Saturday

INDIA'S EARLIER LOWEST TEST SCORE 42 IN 1974

The Virat Kohli-led Indian cricket team's total was also the lowest score in the brief history of D/N Tests and the joint fifth lowest overall. The easy target of 90 runs was achieved by the home side in only 21 overs, and in under three days. India's earlier lowest score was 42 at the Lord's way back in 1974, against England

BATTING FALLS FLAT AGAINST AUSSIE PACE

Indian batsmen failed to factor in the pitch suddenly becoming more livelier with extra bounce generated by Australian pacers. Mohammed Shami injures wrist off a short ball from Cummins. Aussie skipper Tim Paine named player of the match for his impressive first innings knock of 73 | P15

LOWEST TEST TOTALS

(This century, 2000 onwards)
36 India vs Australia, 2020
38 Ireland vs England, 2019
43 Bangladesh vs West Indies, 2018

Wistron admits to lapses, sacks top executive

Taiwanese firm promises to take corrective action and fully compensate affected employees immediately

BISMAL MALIK @ Bengaluru

TAIWANESE electronics manufacturer Wistron on Saturday admitted to lapses at its Narasapura iPhone factory near Kolar, which resulted in reduced/delayed payments to some of its workers at the facility. Wistron has also sacked its India Vice-President, Vincent Lee, who was overseeing the operations, and said that disciplinary action will be taken against erring officials.

Last week, thousands of workers resorted to violence at the Narasapura facility over non-payment of dues which resulted in Rs 41.25 crore loss for the Taiwanese firm. "We have been investigating and found that some workers were not paid properly, or on time. We deeply regret this and apologise to all of our workers. Some of the processes we put in place to manage labour agencies and payments need to be strengthened and upgraded. We are taking immediate action to correct this, including disciplinary action. We are removing the Vice-President who oversees our business in India. We are also enhancing our processes and restructuring our teams to ensure these issues cannot happen again. Our top priority is to ensure all workers are fully compensated immediately," the company said in a statement on Saturday.

Top industry analysts told TNSE that the suspension of business from Apple will remain till the concerns are addressed. Last month, Apple suspended its contract with another key contract manufacturer, Pegatron, in China after it found that the partner firm falsified paperwork to employ students as workers in its facility. However, the development, according to experts will deal a huge blow to the ambitious Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tap the \$190 billion mobile phone manufacturing opportunity and shift base from China to India.

An official in Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan's office told TNSE that the state government's ongoing investigations into last week's violence indicated lapses on the part of Wistron and the same has been communicated to the Taiwanese firm.

MORE REPORTS: P7

Non-payment of dues to thousands of workers needs to be probed by the state Labour Ministry and corrective action taken so that foreign firms do not take Indian workers for a ride. On the other hand, resumption of operations at the facility will be key to preventing any damage to Karnataka's reputation as a key investment destination. Industry experts



FAULTY ATTENDANCE SOFTWARE

The Karnataka Government, in a written communication to the Centre, had blamed Wistron for not being able to pay workers, specially for the stretched working hours, due to a faulty attendance software which showed discrepancies, resulting in lesser wage payment. The letter to the Union Labour Ministry also pointed out that the employees were marked absent on some days when they attended work and that the payments were not made on time.

Apple suspends future contracts over workers' dues

BISMAL MALIK @ Bengaluru



TECH giant Apple Inc has said that it has put its key contract manufacturer Wistron, on probation, and is suspending future contracts with the iPhone supplier. A preliminary investigation has found that there were delays in payments to workers in October and November, violating the firm's supplier

code of conduct.

On Thursday, *The New Indian Express* had reported that Apple may temporarily suspend its contract with Wistron over company policies on employment and wages.

In a statement on Saturday, Apple said that its preliminary findings indicated violation of its supplier code of conduct as Wistron failed to implement proper working hour management processes. "This led to payment delays for some workers in October and November. As always, our focus is on making sure everyone in our supply chain is protected and treated with dignity and respect. We are very disappointed and taking immediate steps to address these issues. Wistron has taken disciplinary action and is restructuring their recruitment and payroll teams. We have placed Wistron on probation and they won't receive new business from Apple before they complete corrective actions. Apple employees, auditors, will monitor their progress," the company said.

Classes 10 and 12 to resume from Jan 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

STUDENTS who will be writing board exams, will head back to regular classes as the new year dawns. The state high-level committee, which met under the chairmanship of CMB S Yediyurappa on Saturday, has approved restarting of classes for Grades 10 and 12 from January 1, 2021.

After assessing how the offline classes go for Class 10 and 12 students for 15 days, a decision can be taken on starting classes for the rest of the grades, including Class 11, the committee said. Students of

Classes 6-9 will continue with lessons under the Vidyagama scheme, the committee added.

Yediyurappa announced this decision after more than an hour's discussion with officials of various departments who are part of the high-level committee. The CM has asked for strict precautionary measures to be put in place before classes are resumed.

After more than an hour's meeting with the CM, the panel, which includes Primary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar and Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr K Sudhakar, unanimously decided on reopening of schools. P4

SAFETY SYLLABUS

Classrooms, libraries, labs to be disinfected, ground cleared	Soap, sanitiser, thermal scanner to be made available
Overhead tank emptied, treated, dried and refilled	Masks must for teachers, students
Panchayat and municipal officials to support sanitation	School buses to run at half capacity and should be sanitised
Hot water to be made available for students	Boxes should be drawn for orderly entry into the school buses
No food allowed inside campus	No handshakes, or sharing classroom material, water bottles

DETAILS: P5

Sonia meets 'G-23', no word on rejig

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

CONGRESS chief Sonia Gandhi on Saturday met a group of party leaders, months after they wrote to her seeking organisational changes. While the meeting at her residence proved to be an ice breaker, there was no agreement over organisational elections.

All that the leaders were assured of was an election for the Congress president with

many asking Rahul Gandhi to take charge while he said he was ready to take whatever responsibility the party assigns to him.

General secretary in charge of UP, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, was also present at the meeting. Among the letter writers were Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Manish Tewari, Vivek Tankha, Shashi Tharoor and Prithviraj Chavan.

In the four-hour meeting, the leaders were made to express their views and the contents flagged by the letter writers were discussed. The group led by Azad reiterated the demand for holding elections to the Central Working Committee and at general secretary level.

However, other party veterans such as Ambika Soni and Harish Rawat opposed it.

CONTINUED ON: P12

Will rid Bengal of Didi, extortion politics: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

ALLEGING that the Trinamool Congress slogan of *ma, mati, manush* (mother, motherland and people) coined by Mamata Banerjee had now become *tolbaji, tushtikaran and bhaipobad* (extortion, appeasement and nepotism), Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday called for "uprooting" the West Bengal chief minister from the state.

"You do not care about the crores of youth living in Bengal, you only care about your nephew. You are only worried about when to introduce him as the CM of Bengal. The beginning of your end has started and you will find yourself alone before the upcoming Assembly elections," Shah said at a rally in Midnapore.



Home Minister Amit Shah and former TMC leader Suvenudh Adhikari (Left) attend a rally in West Bengal's West Midnapore district on Saturday | P11

He claimed the BJP will win more than 200 seats out of the 294 in next year's elections.

The reference to the nephew is Abhishek Banerjee, who Mamata is allegedly promoting. While handing over the party's flag to Suvenudh Adhikari — Mamata's once trusted lieutenant who joined the BJP at the rally — Shah said this was just the beginning as more people would leave the TMC and Mamata would eventually find herself alone in the party.

Other than Adhikari, nine MLAs, one MP, 15 councilors, 45 civic body chairmen and two zilla parishad chiefs also joined the saffron party. Among the MLAs are six from the Trinamool, two Left Front and one from the Congress. The parliamentarian is Sunil Mandal, the Trinamool's sitting MP from East Burdwan.

CONTINUED ON: P12

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MAGAZINE

ZERO BUDGET, BUMPER CROP

Mysuru farmer shows how natural farming is fruitful and economically viable

K RATHNA @Mysuru

A 50-year-old farmer in a village in Karnataka has shown, like Japanese farmer Masanobu Fukuoka before him, that from “nothingness” can emerge beautiful forests and farms. Krishnappa Dasappa Gowda's farm in Bannur village, T Narasipur taluk, looks less like a typical agricultural field, and more like a forest in all its wild glory. He cultivates everything from teak and mango, to coffee, turmeric, ginger to paddy and sugarcane, using the technique of natural farming in his five acres of land, which he first encountered in 2005 when he met Maharashtra farmer Subhash Palekar. He started experimenting with natural farming on one acre of land in 2005. One year of perseverance under Palekar's guidance paid off and in the next two years, he switched over to natural farming completely. The result was a five-layered forest-like five-acre farm in which vegetation of different heights (tall, medium, short, bushes, creepers) grew amid each other, with each canopy getting adequate sunlight. “Agriculture is a science. Just think about who waters trees and supplies fertilisers in a forest. The trees are healthier and produce a good quantity of fruits and it happens naturally. We have adopted the same laws of nature in Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF),” says Krishnappa. Natural farming is a technique developed by the Japanese farmer Masanobu Fukuoka, says Krishnappa Gowda. Fukuoka, who believed that humans should not interfere with nature, applied the concept of “Mu” (a Japanese word meaning nothingness) to agriculture and advocated that crops be allowed to grow naturally with no interference. Palekar modified this technique to Indian climatic conditions and formulated an inter-cropping, and multi-layering technique and began to propagate it, says Krishnappa.

In Krishnappa's experience, natural farming is both economically viable and environment-friendly. “Most agriculturists face labour issues. Natural farming can be done with less labour and investment. We need 10% of the labour required otherwise. Earnings can come from inter-cropping,” he says.

Popularly known as Bannur Krishnappa, he says one acre of land can fetch a farmer around Rs 3-4 lakh a year; provided native seed varieties are used, plants are selected based on rooting patterns and are grown in a five-layer system. The demand for such crops is evident from the number of outlets that advertise organic/naturally grown produce. “This shows people prefer healthy foods. The government should chalk out programmes to promote natural farming,” he says.

ZBNF can restore soil fertility which gets degraded due to chemical fertiliser and pesticide, he says. “Zero budget natural farming was created by studying forests, which naturally look healthier. Farmers should practise ZBNF to restore soil nutrients, and grow healthy food for society,” he says.

Most Sundays, you would find him conducting awareness programmes on the subject or taking visitors on a tour of his farm. A proud Krishnappa says, “I have completed SSLC and I feel good that I am teaching foreigners about Palekar's natural farming.”

H Chethan, a visitor from Bengaluru, says he plans to develop a two-acre farm with this method. “Krishnappa's farm is inspiring and educational. His introduction to the local variety of crops and conservation of seeds is very helpful. Without much investment, we can get a good yield and profit. If this method is followed, farmers will not face losses.”

In Krishnappa's opinion, ZBNF can address economic non-viability of agriculture and the debt and despair that stem from it. “Farmers are quitting agriculture. If they practise inter-cropping through ZBNF, there will be no losses and they can overcome agriculture-related problems. Farmer suicides can also be prevented,” he says. Krishnappa can be contacted at 9880587545.

Agriculture is a science. Just think about who waters trees and supplies fertilizers in a forest. The trees are healthier and produce a good quantity of fruits and it happens naturally. We have adopted the same laws of nature in Zero Budget Natural Farming

Krishnappa, farmer

Jeevamrutha: Microbial culture that increases activity of microorganisms and earthworms in the soil, therefore improving soil nutrients. Made with cow dung, cow urine, water, jaggery, pulse flour

PILLARS OF ZBNF

Beejamrutham: Treating seeds to improve growth and protect from disease. Mulching: (Layer on soil used to retain soil moisture, prevents weed growth etc). Can be done through mixed cropping

Pics of plants grown in Krishnappa's farm

ORGANIC NATURAL FARMING

While both are chemical-free, a major difference between organic farming and natural farming is that while the former uses bio-fertiliser or bio-pesticide, the latter involves the use of material from within the farm itself (such as microbes and earthworms) to nourish crops

BRINGING BACK THE TASTE OF HOMEMADE KUSWAR

DIVYA CUTINHO @Mangaluru

IT'S that time of the year when the aroma of kalkals, rose cookies, kidio and other goodies wafts from a few houses in the coastal region. With Christmas just five days away, families are busy making Kuswar – a traditional platter of goodies.

Kuswar-making is no longer a family tradition among the Christians in the region. However, though many families have stopped for various reasons, there are a few who are trying to keep the tradition alive.

Christmas is incomplete without homemade Kuswar or a set of special delicacies apart from crib making, the tree and the stars. ‘Kidio’ (sweet dough curls), ‘cookisa’ (rose cookies), ‘guliyo’ (rice marbles), ‘nevriyo’ (sweet puffs), ‘chakkuli’, rice laddus, rice plum cake are some of the delicacies prepared during Christmas by the Catholic community in the coast.

The preparations begin about a week before the festival. Though making these goodies is time-consuming, families treat the treat-preparations as an act of joy. All the members of the families in a celebratory mood, sit down to make these sweets and distribute among friends, relatives and neighbours sharing the excitement of Christmas which is all about love, peace and sharing.

Sunitha Pinto and her mother-in-law Pauline from the city have been making Kuswar for the last seven years. Pauline was a cook for 30 years at Fr Muller's Hospital. After her retirement, instead of sitting idle at home, she would make Kuswar every year, encouraged by Sunitha. “The demand for nevriyo and cookisa is high. Among all the items, nevriyo takes more time. We are not making the goodies



Sunitha Pinto and her mother-in-law Pauline with their homemade kuswar

for any profit but do it to keep the tradition alive,” Sunitha says. Her husband Arun Pinto also helps in making these treats.

Apart from Mangaluru, Sunitha has customers from Japan, London, Dubai too who have given good feedback and have been placing orders for the last couple of years. The homemade Kuswar is much cheaper too when compared to that available in bakeries. While 10 pieces of nevriyo cost Rs 130 in shops, the homemade ones are available only at ₹95.

Sophia Iyon Sequeira, a resident of Nanthoor, also has been trying to maintain the age-old tradition of making Kuswar at home with the help of her friends and children. Since there is no job amid Covid-19 crisis, Sophia and her friends have taken this sweet route to earn some money.

Franky Sequeira from Der-e-bail who has been making Kuswar for the last 25 years says that earlier it was made at home as there were joint families. “Most of them have settled abroad. Lack of time is also one of the reasons and it is also labour-intensive,” he says.



Schools to open in January, sans a hot mid-day meal

Govt not committed to health and nutrition of children: Experts

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

WHILE the government is ramping up efforts to reopen schools the state from January 1, although partially, there will be no hot mid-day meal as before. Instead, students will be asked to carry their own food from home.

The government has planned to extend the distribution of ration kits, which they are now giving retrospectively for the lockdown months when students were denied the meals.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar on Saturday said the department clarified in the Karnataka High Court in the previous week, that delivering mid-day meals was not possible, and hence ration kits will be given to houses of students.

Schools will reopen for Classes 10 and 12, and students in Classes 6-9 will attend Vidyagama classes from January 1. Classes will be held only for three periods in a day, he clarified.

Health and education experts are of the opinion that both the partial opening of schools and the substitution of the mid-day meals with food kits is counter-productive.

Educationist Niranjana VP told TNIE



Educationists say full-day classes and a hot meal are a must as it would otherwise increase child labour and child marriage | EXPRESS

that the government has already been urged to start all classes from pre-primary to Class 12. Moreover, it schools shouldn't just be confined to classes, but children should be provided with hot milk, mid-day meal and nutrition supplements. Classes should be held for the full day, otherwise, it would result in an increase in child labour, bonded child labour, child trafficking and child marriage. The primary obligation of the state is protect the rights of children, he added. “It would have been good if hot cooked meals were served in schools. Neither was that done, nor was ration given for several months till the issue was raised by civil society. Only now have they started supplying grains. So there is

no commitment by the government to the health and nutrition of school children at all,” said Cynthia Stephen, social policy researcher and Dalit activist.

Plus the distribution of food grains saves the government the effort and expense of cooking and serving food. “It's a crying shame,” she added.

Talking about the already debilitating condition of children's health, Dr Sylvia Karpagam, a public health doctor and researcher, said that schools were to be providers not just of 12-20 grams of protein to children, but also Vitamin A drops and de-worming tablets. Children are at the risk of micro-nutrient deficiencies resulting in rickets, Marasmus and Kwashiorkor from Vitamin A deficiency.

Checking pollution: KSPCB Board launches 10 GPS-enabled tankers carrying effluents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on Saturday launched 10 GPS-enabled common effluents carrying tankers. This step has been taken to keep a check on the unscientific disposal of pollutants across the city and into the valleys, and also to ensure that industries manage their waste properly.

The Board also issued a circular on Saturday for industries to follow to ensure that waste is transported, disposed of and managed scientifically.

Srinivasulu, Member Secre-

tary, KSPCB, told The New Sunday Express, “Today, we introduced 10 GPS-enabled tankers. On Monday, 12 more will be launched. The GPS of the vehicles is directly connected to the server of the head office and they are monitored live. Soon the live link will be put on public domain for citizens to monitor and track.”

He said that directions have also been issued to waste is not disposed into the valleys, especially Vrushabhavathi.

If anyone is found flouting the rules, criminal cases will be filed against the polluters and they will be sentenced to five years jail term, he added.



Srinivasulu said if the GPS device is tampered or is not working, the CETPs (common effluent treatment plants) will have to ensure it is functional.

As per the circular, the Board has given consent to set up 10 common effluent treatment plants, especially for small scale industrial facilities.

All industries which have ob-

tained consent under Water Act, 1974, for disposing of effluents to CETPs, should do so to the nearest CETP. In case any industry intends to hand over the effluents to a CETP other than the nearest one, it will have to give technical or other sound reasons to the Board, the circular said.

The MoU signed between the industry and CETP shall be for the consented quantity and the treatment charges should be indicated in the MoU and shared with the Board. The CETPs should also ensure that the monitoring of the vehicles should include monitoring of online flow metres, the circular said.

Every school must have an isolation room: Edu Minister Suresh Kumar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ON Thursday, the Covid-19 technical advisory committee had suggested that those who opt to attend school – be it for offline classes or Vidyagama – should get written consent from parents. Parents must also give a signed declaration stating their wards have no symptoms.

Students will be allowed into classrooms only for half a day's class, and not more than 15 students will be permitted inside a classroom at a time during class. Besides, each school will have to set up an isolation room for those who develop Covid-19 symptoms, Suresh Kumar told reporters on Saturday.

However, the high-level committee also decided that attendance at schools and colleges is not mandatory, and that students can continue to attend classes online through YouTube channel and other resources like Chandana TV channel, said the Education Minister. Students interested to attend school for clarifications from teachers may avail the offline classes, he added.

Students attending classes under the Vidyagama scheme will be called to school for the programme just twice a week. The Social Welfare Department has decided that hostels

for backward classes and its own hostels too will be opened for students. Before they arrive, the students should be tested for Covid-19.

Students in residential schools should test negative for Covid-19 within 72 hours of getting admitted, the committee said.

Schools and college authorities have been asked to get classrooms disinfected and follow Covid-19 safety guidelines laid out by the Education Department.

In November, the Technical Advisory Committee had decided that the issue of school reopening will be decided in the third week of December.



EXPRESS READ

Marshals impose penalty for dumping sanitary waste

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has imposed a penalty of Rs 50,000 on Life cell

International Private Limited, a laboratory located in Rajajinagar 1st Block, for illegally dumping sanitary and medical waste on Pipeline Road in Kottigepalya. Marshals imposed the penalty earlier this week after the lab staff were caught red-handed dumping the waste. They stopped the dumping and imposed the penalty. **ENS**



Sudhakar hints at free vaccine in state

Karnataka has provided Covid testing, treatment at no charge, points out Health Minister

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

AFTER the Kerala government recently announced free vaccines for the state, state Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar has hinted that Karnataka too could roll out the vaccine free of cost.

Although he did not say this explicitly, the Health Minister said on Saturday, after a meeting with Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, that a decision in this regard would be taken in the interest of the people.

"Karnataka has been offering free Covid tests, free treatment since the beginning of the pandemic. We have so far tested 1.20 crore people free of cost. The Karnataka government is very proactive and committed. Between the Government of India and Government of Karnataka, either one of us will ensure that the vaccine will be taken care of in the interest of the people and that money is not a concern," Sudhakar said, answering a question on the rolling out vaccine for free.

However, a senior doctor on the



He may be referring to the priority health care workers and frontline workers who will be in the first list of vaccination
Taskforce member

A technician gets ready to resume testing after her lunch break at a fever clinic in Bengaluru on Saturday | MEGHANA SASTRY

Covid 19 task force said that the minister may be referring to the first set of priority populations.

"It is not yet clear whether the vaccination will be totally free of cost or charged. The health minister may be referring to the priority health care workers and frontline workers who will be in the first list of vaccination. They

might not be charged at all," said an expert on the task force committee.

Though the government provides several vaccines free to children and pregnant women under its National Immunisation Programme, the sheer scale of the pandemic and complex international financial agreements undergirding vaccine development and deployment, mean that there's

uncertainty on the actual costs to the Centre.

However, Dr K R Antony, former health and nutrition specialist at UNICEF, India and life member of Indian Public Health Association, Public Health Resource Network said, the though the Centre has not announced free vaccines for all, it has also not said that people will be charged. Considering the cost of the existing vaccines, it will be a huge financial commitment for the government.

"The entire scheme will require more than Rs 6 lakh crore. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that frontline workers and healthcare workers will not be charged. The second phase onwards needs to be seen," he told TNSE.

The Karnataka government recently slashed the price of an RT-PCR test to Rs 800 from Rs 1,200 at private labs (for private samples). The tests cost Rs 500 if the sample is referred by the government. Meanwhile, the government has also set aside Rs 300 crore for its vaccine trials and free treatment. It has provided free Covid testing in all government-run primary health care centres and hospitals.

ECONOMY



IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

Karnataka pushes for investment in healthcare

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

"WITH the right kind of investments from public and private entities, the healthcare market can increase three-folds to Rs 9 trillion by 2022," stated Dr K Sudhakar, Minister for Health & Family Welfare, while addressing the pre-event of Tech-Bharat 2021 on Saturday.

He gave a call to investors to set up high-end healthcare services in Karnataka and said that the government will traverse the extra mile in supporting such enterprises on priority. "Skillings or developing healthcare resources is the biggest challenge as well as an opportunity worldwide. In addition, promoting strategic partnerships amongst pharmaceutical establishments and framing proper regulations and monitoring of compliance across pharma industries, etc. are all business opportunities waiting to be grabbed by investors," he said.

Sudhakar said that in the last two decades, healthcare had witnessed substantial technological advancements which had created umpteen opportunities in providing good healthcare to masses. "Be it remote health monitoring tools, fitness wearables, medical robotics, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML)-enabled genome sequencing, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) for remote patient care and reliable treatment etc., have helped our healthcare systems cope with present and future demands," he said.

"Further, for entrepreneurs in the field of healthcare, these technological advancements have created umpteen opportunities in providing good healthcare to the world population," he added.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, former chairman, Infosys Limited, said that during the Covid period, there has been a massive acceleration and adoption of digital technology. "The digital transformation which would have happened in five years has occurred in just five months, be it e-com, WFH, consumption of digital content or financial business," he added.

Vaccines for children could take up to a year, say experts

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

WHILE the elderly are a high risk group and on the list of people to receive the vaccine after health care workers and frontline staff, the youngest members of society - children - will likely remain outside the ambit of inoculation for around a year.

While Russia declared the world's first vaccine against Covid-19 as early as August, clinical trials on children began recently, as vaccines meant for both adults and children are first tested in adults. These studies could continue for up to a year.

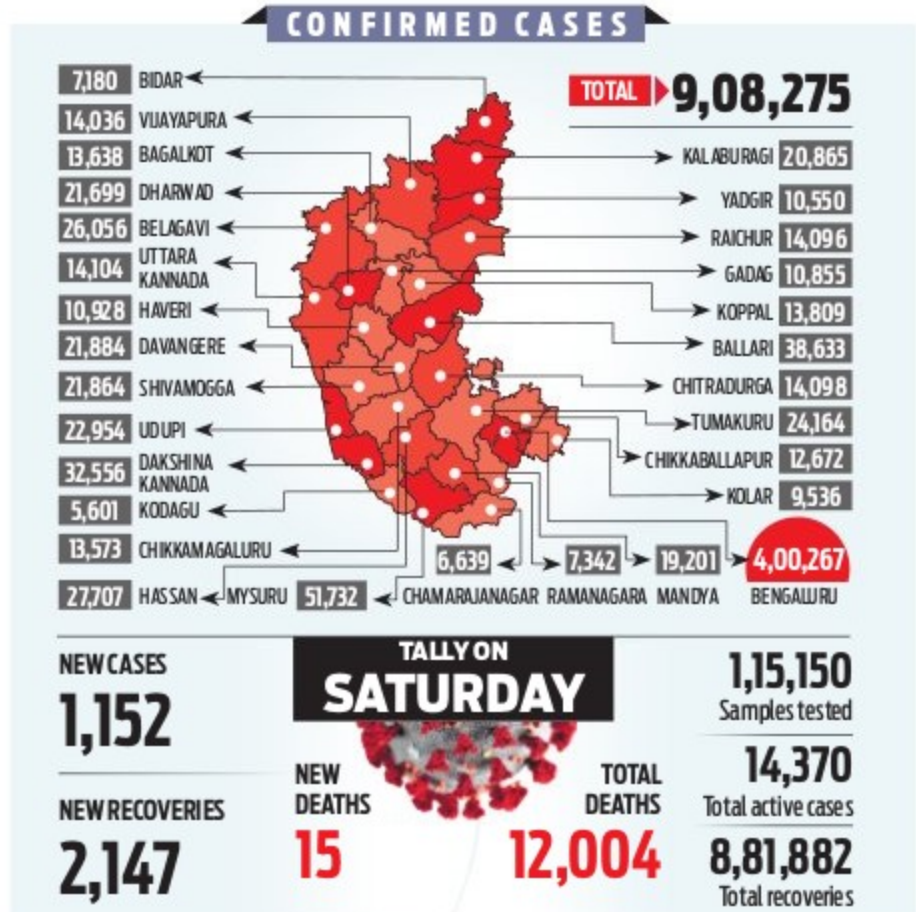
"Trials done so far have been done only on adults, as we should have adequate and robust result before we start vaccinating children. Reactions and responses to vaccines can be entirely different in children," said Dr Yogesh Gupta, paediatrician at Fortis Hospital.

"Children need the vaccine too, as they constitute a high-risk group, especially little ones, when they start going to school or mingle with others. Children can be carriers and hence its very important to vaccinate this sub-group or ESR we have may not be able to have complete control on the pandemic," Dr Gupta added.

Although the effect of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, has been generally mild on children the world over, a vaccine for children needs to be tested on children, said Dr Srikanta J R, consult for paediatric pulmonology at Aster CMI Hospital. "We require more data into adult trials to conclusively say that these vaccines are absolutely safe and have reasonable efficacy. Therefore, until we have these conclusive results, it is difficult to get children recruited to clinical trials. Secondly, convincing parents will be a major hurdle in vaccinating children.

Thirdly, there is a general fear that children, though asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic, will continue to be a carrier of the virus. Hence, a vaccination program targeting them will be of paramount importance with plans of schools reopening. Once we have reasonable data from adult counterparts, vaccine companies can begin trials in children so as make sure the more vulnerable population do not get infected," he said.

Given that children sometimes develop Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome - Children (MIS-C), it could be longer before a vaccine is approved. "It probably will take couple of years at least to reach children's safety trials. The only disease morbidity we are seeing right now in children is the post-



Thirdly, there is a general fear that children, though asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic, will continue to be a carrier of the virus. Hence, a vaccination program targeting them will be of paramount importance with plans of schools reopening. Once we have reasonable data from adult counterparts, vaccine companies can begin trials in children so as make sure the more vulnerable population do not get infected," he said.

Given that children sometimes develop Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome - Children (MIS-C), it could be longer before a vaccine is approved. "It probably will take couple of years at least to reach children's safety trials. The only disease morbidity we are seeing right now in children is the post-

Covid Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, and there are no studies to show whether these vaccines will actually protect against this immune-related condition. Further research is necessary," said Dr Supraja Chandrasekhar, consultant paediatric intensivist at Columbia Asia Referral Hospital, Yeshwanthpur.

In Karnataka alone so far, 26,661 children between 0-9 age group and 59,087 between 10-19 years have been infected. There have been nine deaths between 0-9 age group and 45 deaths between 10-19.

Dr Gupta added, "Children should stick to S-sanitisation M-Mask and S-Social distance, ensure hygiene and may be schools should be still online at least for kindergarteners."

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule below from its lawful owners Smt. Jayalakshmi, Smt. Radha Panduranga, both are D/o Late K.N. Narayanappa, Smt. Aswini, R., D/o Late Prema and Sri. Chetan R Reddy S/o Late Prema, R/oat No. 1/1, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, 80 Feet Road, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560095. I hereby call upon the general public that, if any person has any manner of legal right, title, interest or claim over schedule property, shall submit their objections and claims, if any with complete records in support of their claim within seven day from today to the address mentioned below. Thereafter no claims of whatsoever nature shall be entertained by my client and my client would proceed to purchase the schedule property presuming that the present owner of the schedule property is absolute owner of the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy No. 1/2, situated at Singanayakanahalli Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North (Addl.) Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District measuring 1 Acre 20 Guntas & bounded on:
East by : Bengaluru - Doddaballapura Highway Road,
West by : Landin survey no. 1/4,
North by : Land in survey no. 1/1,
South by : Janata Colony Road.

YASHVANTH. K.V. Advocate
13/1, G Block, Sahakarangara, Bengaluru-92.
Ph: 9980668759, 9448277118

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Date: 20/12/2020
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POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Properties)

WHEREAS, The Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, RACPC-4, Whitefield, Bengaluru under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest/cost etc within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower hereunder.

1. Name of the Borrower: Sri. Gaurav Sridhar S/o Sri. Sridhar Venkataraman
Demand Notice date : 14.10.2020 A/c No: HL: 3842452958 HL: 38424345749
Loan Outstanding amount as per Demand Notice: Rs.1,18,27,214/- (Rupees One Crore Eighteen Lakh Twenty-seven Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Only) as on 14.10.2020, and further interest from 15.10.2020 with incidental expenses, costs thereon.
Possession taken date: 16.12.2020
Present Loan Outstanding: Rs.1,19,24,932.00 (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Two Only) as on 15.12.2020 and interest from 16.12.2020 & expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property : SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY NO. 1: All that part and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 31 Guntas comprised in survey No.164/3 of S. Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (duly converted vide official Memorandum dated: 16.12.2008 bearing No. ALN/(AS)SR/54/2008-09, issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on the East by: Land bearing Sy.No.164/2, West by: Land bearing Sy.No.72, North by: Land bearing Sy.No.164/1, South by: Land bearing Sy.No.165/2.
ITEM NO. 2: All that part and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 25 Guntas comprised in survey No.165/1 of S. Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (duly converted vide official Memorandum dated: 22.07.2010 bearing No. ALN/(AS)SR/22/2010-11, issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on the East by: Land bearing Sy.No.172, West by: Land bearing Sy.No.72, North by: Land bearing Sy.No.164, South by: Land bearing Sy.No.165/2.
SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: 0.64% undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule A property, measuring about 393.8 sq.ft. in an undivided state has been sold to the Purchaser by the Owners/ developer under this sale deed.
SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY: Residential Apartment bearing Flat No. 307, E. Khatha No.150200102701020900, situated in Second Floor of the Building, measuring about 1208 sq. ft., of super built up area consisting of two bed room with RCC roofing, tiled flooring, molded doors and aluminum windows including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase, lifts and other areas of common use contained in the residential apartment complex known as "PUSHPAM E TOWN" constructed on the schedule A property with one covered car parking space exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the purchaser, build according to the plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order No.CC/526/2013-14 dated 30.10.2013 on single site plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order No.LAO/34/2012-13 bounded on West by Apartment No.306, East by common corridor, North by OTS and South by Lift.
SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY NO. 2
ITEM NO.1: All that part and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 31 Guntas comprised in survey No.164/3 of S. Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (duly converted vide official Memorandum dated: 16.12.2008 bearing No. ALN/(AS)SR/54/2008-09, issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on the East by: Land bearing Sy.No.164/2, West by: Land bearing Sy.No.72, North by: Land bearing Sy.No.164/1, South by: Land bearing Sy.No.165/2.
ITEM NO. 2: All that part and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 25 Guntas comprised in survey No.165/1 of S. Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (duly converted vide official Memorandum dated: 22.07.2010 bearing No. ALN/(AS)SR/22/2010-11, issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on the East by: Land bearing Sy.No.172, West by: Land bearing Sy.No.72, North by: Land bearing Sy.No.164, South by: Land bearing Sy.No.165/2.
SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: 0.89% undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule A property, measuring about 545.7 sq.ft. in an undivided state has been sold to the Purchaser by the Owners/ developer under this sale deed.
SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY: Residential Apartment bearing Flat No. 201, E. Khatha No.150200102701021114, situated in First Floor of the Building, measuring about 1674 sq. ft., of super built up area consisting of three bed room with RCC roofing, tiled flooring, molded doors and aluminum windows including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase, lifts and other areas of common use contained in the residential apartment complex known as "PUSHPAM E TOWN" constructed on the schedule A property with one covered car parking space exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the purchaser, build according to the plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order No.CC/526/2013-14 dated 30.10.2013 on single site plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order No.LAO/34/2012-13 bounded on East by Apartment No.202, West by OTS Road, North by OTS Road and South by Common Corridor.

2. Name of the Borrowers: Mrs. M. Deepa/W/o. Sri. R. Natarajan
Demand Notice date : 14.10.2020 A/c No: HL: 65259216105.
Loan Outstanding amount as per Demand Notice: Rs.51,87,690/- (Rupees Fifty-One Lakh Eighty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Only) as on 14.10.2020, and further interest from 15.10.2020 with incidental expenses, costs thereon.
Possession taken date: 16.12.2020
Present Loan Outstanding: Rs. 52,05,336.00 (Rupees Fifty-Two Lakh Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Six Only) as on 15.12.2019 and interest from 16.12.2020 & expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property : All the part and parcel of property bearing Site No. 122, Khata No. 198, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, presently comes under Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits within Ward No.192 (Begur), measuring East to West 38 ft and North to South 25 ft. (total 950 Sq. ft.) and bounded on the East by: Site No.122, West by Site No.121/B, North by: Road, South by: Private Property.
together with a Residential Building constructed thereon consisting of Ground Floor, having built up area 800 Sqft, First Floor having built up area 800 Sqft and Second Floor having built up area 250 Sqft (Total 1850 Sqft) RCC Roofed, Mosaic Flooring, Cement and Brick Walls, Doors and Windows made of Honne Wood, provided with all civic Amenities.

3. Name of the Borrowers: 1.Sri V Sridhar, S/o Sri Vijaya Bhaskar, 2. Smt. V. Usha Nandini W/o Sri Vijaya Bhaskar
Demand Notice date : 14.10.2020 A/c No: HL: 10158786643
Loan Outstanding amount as per Demand Notice: Rs.8,57,927.00 (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Only) as on 14.10.2020 and interest & expenses thereon.
Possession taken date: 16.12.2020
Present Loan Outstanding: Rs.8,70,242.00 (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Two Only) as on 15.12.2020 and interest from 16.12.2020 & expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property :
SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY: All the part and parcel of property bearing Corporation No.82/3-1 (previously re-sy.#82/3), Ward No.83 situated at Kaggadasapura Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk measuring East to West 75'10" + 73" 10" and North to South 131'1" + 126'3" measuring in all About 2
9614 sq. feet And bounded on: East by: Property No.82/4, West by: Property No.82/2 North by: Road South by: Property belonging to Sri Narayana Reddy
SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: 1358/30348th share in an undivided right and interest in the schedule A property, undivided share being 430.48 sq. feet given herein above and the residential apartment in the ground floor of the construction named as "JAYA EMERALD" residential apartment as No.G-06 (APARTMENT NO. G-06 IN GROUND FLOOR) measuring super built up area of 1358 sq. feet consisting of three bed rooms with proportionate right in the common area and one covered car parking area in the basement of construction numbered as G-06. The apartment having ceramic tile flooring with Honne wood doors and aluminium windows.

4. Name of the Borrowers: Sri. Kevin Manuel Arakal S/o Manuel J Arakal
Demand Notice date : 14.10.2020 A/c No: HL: 62183636603.
Loan Outstanding amount as per Demand Notice: Rs.5,00,753/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seven Hundred Fifty-Three Only) as on 14.10.2020 and further interest from 15.10.2020 with incidental expenses, costs thereon.
Possession taken date: 16.12.2020
Present Loan Outstanding: Rs.4,85,378.00 (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Eight Only) as on 15.12.2020 and interest from 16.12.2020 & expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property : SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of property, bearing (1) survey No.5/3, measuring 2 Acres 27 Guntas of land (2) Sy No. 46, measuring 2 Acres of land (3) Sy No. 47 measuring 2 Acres of land and (4) Sy No. 48, measuring 2 Acres of land, totally measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas of land excluding Kharab, situated at Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. Converted for non-agricultural residential purpose through the conversion order bearing No. BDS/ALN/5R(A) 66-2001-02 dated 26-02-2003 and bounded on the East by: Property bearing Sy. Nos. 46 & 5/4, West by: Property bearing Sy. Nos. 49 & 5/1, North by: Property bearing Sy. Nos. 5/2, 5/4 & 5/5, South by: Property bearing Sy.No. 45.
SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: Flat bearing FT-158, in Third Floor in Block -"F" of "ITTINA NEELA" built in schedule 'A' property and measuring 550 sq. ft., of having super built up area as 1050 sq. ft., of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircase and other areas together with 165 sq. ft., Undivided share, right title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the schedule-A property, and in the said apartment the doors are made of flush doors and steel windows and mosaic flooring.

The above mentioned borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on 16.12.2020.
The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, RACPC-IV, Whitefield Branch for amount mentioned against their names with further interest accrued and cost/ expenses thereon.
The borrower /Guarantors/mortgagors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 16.12.2020
Sd/- Authorised Officer
STATE BANK OF INDIA,
RACPC- IV Whitefield, Bengaluru

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Around 120 people reside in 38 huts in Achalu Doddi in Ramanagara. Many of them do not have access to toilets. According to them, for the past many decades, they voted for the Congress and JDS. However, this time, they hope to get better facilities by voting for the BJP, which is in power in the state and Centre | VINOD KUMAR



Gram Panchayat polls: BJP all set to shake Cong at the root

Kanakapura, considered to be DK brothers' stronghold, may soon go the saffron way

ASHWINI M SRIPAD

@Kanakapura (Ramanagara district)

KANAKAPURA in Ramanagara may be the political stronghold of Congress' DK brothers, who have held sway whether it is the Lok Sabha or Assembly elections. But in this Gram Panchayat election, the tide seems to be in favour of the saffron party, which hopes to win at least one or two seats in each Gram Panchayat.

Kanakapura taluk in Ramanagara district has 43 Gram Panchayats and all of them are facing the polls in the first phase on December 22.

Though Congress has an upper hand, a section of villagers, especially those in the age group of 30 to 40, are in favour of BJP. Even the rebels, who did not get the support of Congress or JDS and contesting as independents are leaning towards BJP. In an election strategy that it has perfected over the last few years, the saffron party started working on the ground much before the polls were announced, and distributed pamphlets highlighting the achievements of State and Central governments.

Before it was made part of the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha constituency, Kanakapura was an independent parliamentary segment, which included Kanakapura Assembly seat. It has a haloed legacy as it revived the

GP SEAT AUCTION: 10 PEOPLE TO BE DEPORTED

Tumakuru: Tumakuru police have booked cases in connection with 11 incidents wherein gram panchayat seats were auctioned. They have now said that the 10 people involved be deported. "The assistant commissioners concerned will take further action in this regard," said Superintendent of Police Dr Kona Vamsi Krishna. "The accused had also violated the model election code of conduct," he added. Kunigal DySP Jagadeesh said that some of the accused, Nagaraju, Jayaramaiah, Ranganath, and Manjunath, had organised the auctioning of the seat that falls



under Kittanamangala Gram Panchayat last week and a video of the incident had gone viral. In almost all the cases, the accused were raising funds on the pretext of renovating village temples and had ensured those who bid with the highest amount get elected unanimously. ENS

We are getting some money from the Modi government. We did not have any such facility when either Congress or JDS was in power

Shivarudregowda, a resident of Kaggalli

political fortunes of former prime minister HD Devegowda in the 2002 Lok Sabha bypolls and that of former chief minister late Ramakrishna Hegde in the 1983 Assembly bypolls. "We at Kanakapura have seen only Congress and JDS ruling here. The straight fight has always been between the two parties. But this time, it looks like BJP will open its account. It may not come to power or get hold of an entire Panchayat, but it

will win two to three seats in each panchayat for sure," said Nagegowda from Kallahalli Gram Panchayat.

Venkatesha, a loyal JDS supporter, said he is done with JDS as the party has not recognised the efforts of grassroots workers at the Thungani Gram Panchayat. "BJP is in power at both Centre and State. If we get the BJP in the panchayat, funds will flow to our village easily. At Least we can see some develop-

ment," he reasoned.

Voters at Kaggalli, Chikkamuduvadi, Budiguppe, Cheeluru and other panchayats too expressed a similar sentiment. "Over the last two years, small farmers who own less than five acres are getting Rs 2,000 once in two months. We are getting some money from the Modi government. We did not have any such facility when either Congress or JDS was in power," pointed out Shivarudregowda from Kaggalli.

Achhalu Doddi, which is on the Ramanagara-Kanakapura connecting road, has around 120 voters staying in 38 huts. "We have been in the same condition for the last five to six decades. As we don't have toilets, we defecate openly. We do get the attention of VIPs passing through this road. Deve Gowda, his son HD Kumaraswamy, Anitha Kumaraswamy, D K Shivakumar and his brother D K Suresh all take this road regularly. They do stop here and listen to our woes. Our main demand is over right deeds, but nothing has been done," said a resident.

"Now, we will try candidates with BJP support, hoping for some relief as they are in power in the state and Centre," he added.

For the first time in 2019, BJP won a seat in Kanakapura Municipality election, setting off a snowballing trend.

'I HAVE TO RESIGN, BUT NEED CLARITY ON CHARGES AGAINST ME'

RAMU PATIL

THE Legislative Council on Tuesday witnessed unruly scenes over the no-confidence motion against Council Chairman K Prathapchandra Shetty, a Congress MLC who was elected chairman in 2018 when the Congress-JDS coalition was in power. BJP has accused Shetty of acting in a partisan manner and rejecting its notice to move a no-confidence motion against him. "The presiding officer's ruling can be wrong, but there is a system to question it. Where is the system in Vidhana Soudha when DyCM and Law Minister, who were supposed to have controlled the situation, resorted to such measures," asked Shetty, while talking to *The New Sunday Express*. Excerpts:

What are your views on what occurred in the House on Tuesday?

It should not have happened. Not everyone will be a legal expert or an authority on the subject and a ruling may be right or wrong. It will be correct 99 per cent of times, but can also be wrong sometimes. There is nothing wrong in the ruling given by me. But, if it is wrong, there is a system to appeal against it. They should have appealed it at an appropriate forum and not resorted to oppressive measures in the house.

Didn't it bring disrepute to the House known for meaningful discussions?

Yes, but who is responsible for it? If a member commits a mistake it is blown out of proportion. Why no one is questioning what the DyCM and cabinet ministers did on that day (Tuesday)? We cannot justify such actions by anyone. The Deputy Chairman was occupying the chair in violation of the rules. Under



Is it possible to just leave when they ask me to? I will defend my actions as I have done everything as per rules

K Prathapchandra Shetty, Council Chairman

what provisions was he made to sit there? It is a big crime if some members pulled him (out of the presiding officer's chair), but what about their (BJP members') actions?

The charge is: How can you decide on the no-confidence motion notice against you?

The provision in the rule is very clear. Any day after 14 days (after receiving the notice), it should be included in the agenda. Once it is included and supported by ten members, it is deemed to be approved by the House. After that the motion can be moved any day within the next five days. When the resolution is being moved, the Chairman cannot preside over the proceedings. However, when the subject is not included in the agenda, there are several instances of chairman presiding over the session. Even (DH) Shankarmurthy (former chairman and BJP leader) did it. He was sitting among members when the resolution was moved, but that was not the situation

here. The question here is that the application should have been in order, and since it was not, it was sent back with a note. There is a provision to present the application again. When the issue was referred in the House, I said a decision will be taken after consulting legal experts.

BJP wants you to resign saying you do not enjoy majority support in the House as JDS is not backing Congress, but BJP, on no-confidence motion.

When the BJP gave the notice, what was its number? (BJP has 31 members). Was it a majority? JDS made its stand clear and gave it in writing only after the House was adjourned sine die. On December 12, 2018, when I was elected Chairman, Congress strength in the House was 37 and it had a majority on its own. On December 19, though Congress had a majority and could have elected its own member as Deputy Chairman, it gave the post to JDS as it was a coalition partner. Till that day didn't we have a majority and the moral stand?

Now that JDS has made its stand clear, will you resign?

I have to resign, and I am not saying I won't. But I need clarity as they have projected it as a big mistake by me. Is it possible to just leave when they ask me to? I will defend my actions as I have done everything as per rules, and they are raising charges against me. They have to give a fresh application or go to the court.

But, BJP is blaming Congress for the mess.

I am confident of defending myself in any forum at any time. Congress has only shown its concern for the council chairman and never told me to do anything out of line.

Government moves on Anubhava Mantapa, Cong calls it a gimmick

THE BLUEPRINT



3.5 acres the area the structure will cover



₹500 cr estimated cost of project



6 floors with each floor having a different theme



770 pillars in the structure. It is believed there were 770 Sharanas, Basavanna's followers, in Anubhava Mantapa

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

FIFTEEN months after it gave its nod for the construction of Anubhava Mantapa in Basavakalyan in Bidar district, the state government has now called for tender for preparing a Detailed Project Report.

Congress has slammed the government dubbing it a poll gimmick as Basavakalyan is due for bypolls. The byelection is necessitated following the death of B Narayana Rao, MLA, due to Covid-19 in October.

During the foundation-laying ceremony of the new Parliament building recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi started his speech by referring to Anubhava Mantapa, a 12th century spiritual Parliament started by social reformer Basavanna in Basavakalyan.

Speaking to *TNSE*, Sharana Katepagol, Commissioner, Basavakalyan Development Board, said they have the concept ready. The structure, in Hoysala style of architecture, will come up in 3.5 acres of land and is estimated to cost Rs 500 crore. It will have six floors, with each floor having a different theme. A mega auditorium with 770 seats will come up. And the entire structure will also have 770 pillars. It is believed there were 770 Sharanas, Basavanna's followers, in Anubhava Mantapa.

"We have called tender for DPR and for Project Management Consultancy, they have to develop our concept and make it technically viable," he said. In future, legislative sessions can also be held here, he added. The re-creation of Anubhava Mantapa was the brainchild of the then CM Siddaramaiah in 2017. In September 2019, the Yediyurappa cabinet gave its nod for the structure's construction.

KPCC working president Eshwar Khandre who served as district in-charge minister of Bidar during Siddaramaiah's tenure said that Anubhava Mantapa was a Congress initiative. "The present government took this to cabinet 15 months back and so far not a single rupee has been released for it. We welcome it and suggest that it should be an international centre. The BJP is acting on it now keeping in mind the bypolls in Basavakalyan, for which dates are likely to be announced in eight to ten days. The BJP move is nothing but a gimmick," he said.

Congress responsible for farmers' protests, says Yediyurappa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa blamed the Congress for the ongoing farmers' protest across the country. "It is time to give them a befitting reply by reaching the initiatives of both State and Central governments to every farmer," he urged BJP workers.

Speaking at the valedictory of BJP's Executive Committee meeting by farmers' wing, the CM said that those protesting in Delhi in the name of farmers were not ready to come to the table even when Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited them.

"Congress is behind this conspiracy. That party does not have leaders. As they are not in power, they are trying to mislead farmers and create chaos for political gains," he added.

On farm bills, he said that both State and Union govern-



CM B S Yediyurappa attends the state BJP Farmers Morcha Core Committee meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHRIRAM B N

ments are pro-farmer. "We are working towards making agriculture a profit-making in-

dustry. Our government is prioritising agriculture, health and education," he

added.

He pointed out that he has travelled to villages while

Kumaraswamy dares Siddu to win 10 seats by forming his own party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday hit out at Congress leader Siddaramaiah and dared him to win 10 seats on his own by coming out of the national party. "Siddaramaiah repeatedly says the Congress gave the Chief Minister's post to the party that had won just 37 seats. I challenge Siddaramaiah to come out of the national party's shadow,

form his own regional party and win 10 seats on his own strength," the former CM said adding that Siddaramaiah was unaware of the leadership, hard work and commitment required to build a regional party.

Responding to Siddaramaiah's charge that the JDS and the BJP had an understanding to defeat him in the Chamundeshwari constituency in the 2018 elections and also some Congress leaders had backstabbed him in the polls then, the former CM said that Siddaramaiah should do

some introspection about the 2013 elections and what he did in Koratagere Assembly segment. Senior Congress leader Dr G Parameshwara, who was the KPCC president at that time, lost the 2013 polls and the party insiders were accused of working against him.

The JDS leader also said that just a few months after the formation of the coalition government, Siddaramaiah was discussing about destabilizing the Congress-JDS government and most of the Congress legislators who joined BJP are his followers.

HDK HAD TO STAY IN A HOTEL BECAUSE OF SIDDU: JDS LEADER

Mysuru: Former minister and JDS MLA Sa Ra Mahesh has alleged that Opposition leader Siddaramaiah was responsible for HD Kumaraswamy, then chief minister, staying at a hotel. He said that Kumaraswamy's house was in JP Nagar and Siddaramaiah was not vacating the Chief Minister's



official residence, forcing Kumaraswamy to stay at a hotel. Speaking to the media here, he alleged that Siddaramaiah did not support Kumaraswamy wholeheartedly in the coalition government and had political differences with JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda's family. "How could Kumaraswamy have done his job when many of Siddaramaiah's supporters claimed the latter to be his chief minister," he asked. When asked about Siddaramaiah claiming that a conspiracy was hatched to ensure his defeat in the Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency, Mahesh said that politics involves a lot of conspiracies. He alleged that Siddaramaiah was the only chief minister who borrowed the most and people will punish him again if he speaks arrogantly to others. ENS

Boy kidnapped for bitcoins rescued

Police trace the 8-year-old, who was abducted from Ujire in Dakshina Kannada district, to Kolar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

AN eight-year-old boy, who was abducted from Ujire in Dakshina Kannada district for a ransom in cryptocurrency, was rescued in Kolar on Saturday. The accused are Ranjith, a data entry operator in a software company, Hanumatu and Gangadhar, both cab drivers, Kamal, a mechanic, Manjunath, a tailor and Mahesh, a painter. They are in the age group of 21-26 years and hail from Mandya, Mysuru, Bengaluru and Kolar. Search is on for a few more involved, including the mastermind behind the abduction.

The boy and his grandfather AK Sivan were taking a stroll near their house on Thursday evening when four people came in a car and kidnapped the boy. Subsequently, the kidnappers called the boy's father, using a Madhya Pradesh SIM, demanding a ransom of 100 Bitcoins (BTC), amounting close to ₹18 crore.

Dakshina Kannada SP B M Laxmiprasad said the main accused, whose identity is not disclosed, was acquainted with the boy's father, Bijoy - who runs a hardware shop - and they were into the same business until three years ago. He was aware that Bijoy was trading in Bitcoins and hence demanded the ransom in cryptocurrency as it is difficult to trace. The main accused had hired four persons for the job and had promised to pay them ₹7 lakh.

The SP said they were able to arrest the accused after launching the investigation from various angles, including finding those who knew that Bijoy was a Bitcoin trader. The kidnappers reached Kolar after travelling via Madikeri, Mandya and Bengaluru. They had kept the boy in the house of an accused and did not hurt him. The boy also did not raise an alarm. The SP said further investigation will reveal whether the main accused carried out the crime for just ransom or over personal enmity. The police handed over the boy to his parents after getting permission from the Kolar magistrate.



The kidnappers, who have been arrested, were hired from Bengaluru, Mandya and Mangaluru. The arrest of the mastermind will throw more light. There could also be a personal angle behind the crime.

Police



Kidnapping for ransom in cryptocurrency worries cops

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE kidnapping of a minor boy in Dakshina Kannada district for ransom in bitcoins is the first such kidnapping in the State.

Though the child was rescued unhurt on Saturday morning from Kolar, 372 km away from Ujire in DK, and his kidnappers arrested, the incident has sent a chill down the spine of the police administration.

According to the police, the mastermind, who is absconding, planned the kidnapping of the child, the son of a businessman Bijoy, for 100 bitcoins. As on Saturday, the price of one bitcoin is equivalent to ₹17 lakh approximately. The demand for ransom was 100 bitcoins which is equivalent to ₹17 crore. The kidnappers had later scaled down the ransom to 60 bitcoins and ₹25 lakh.

"The main accused knew Bijoy and also that he had bitcoins. The latter had some cryptocurrency three years ago, but once

their prices had crashed, he had sold them. This aspect was not known to the mastermind," said an officer.

In the last one year, the price of cryptocurrency has sky-rocketed from ₹4 lakh to ₹5 lakh for one bitcoin to ₹17 lakh. "The accused may have thought of getting them from Bijoy for monetary gain and also for the fact that exchange of cryptocurrency cannot be traced easily outside a bitcoin exchange. The identity of the buyer or seller becomes known at the time of sale or conversion of cryptocurrency into fiat money," he added.

"The kidnappers, who have been arrested, were hired from Bengaluru, Mandya and Mangaluru. The arrest of the mastermind will throw more light. There could also be a personal angle behind the crime," said the officer.

"The role of organised mafia cannot be ruled out," he added. "Crime is expected to go up. Partly because of lack and loss of jobs and the impact of Covid-19 on the society itself and its psyche," said the officer.

Former minister Varthar Prakash was kidnapped for ransom on November 25 in Kolar by Kaviraj, a gangster close to the jailed underworld don Ravi Pujari.

CRIME PATROL

BOMB SQUAD DEFUSE LIVE ROCKET SHELL AT SANGAMA

Bengaluru: Tension gripped Sangama, near Kanakapura, after passersby discovered what looked like a live rocket shell inside the water on Thursday. The police were alerted and the bomb disposal squad rushed to the spot on Friday and defused it. Around evening, a shepherd who noticed the unfamiliar object near the Arkavathi bridge called the forest staff. They in turn alerted the Sathanuru police who inspected it and immediately called in the bomb disposal squad, who confirmed that it was a rocket shell. Meanwhile, the police approached the court and took permission to blast it at the same site. Finally, on Friday evening, the shell was blasted. Preliminary investigation revealed that the military must have used such shells for training some years ago, with one of them -- about 6-inches long -- being left behind accidentally. It had, however, gone unnoticed. **ENS**

Police acted swiftly, prevented bigger loss to Wistron, says IGP

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

SWIFT action by the police on the day of violence at Wistron Corporation, which makes iPhones, at Narasapura plat in Kolar district saved further damage and bloodshed, said Central Range Inspector General of Police Seemant Kumar Singh. The police have managed to instil confidence in the area allowing the company to start its operations at the earliest, he added.

Soon after they were informed of the violence, a police team, under the supervision of Kolar SP Karthick Reddy, rushed to the spot and dispersed the mob. Had it not been for their timely intervention, the

situation would have gone out of control, leading to more bloodshed and a bigger loss for the company, he added.

SP Reddy said that so far, 156 workers, including four women, have been arrested. The police are searching for workers who fled the spot and have switched off their mobile phones to evade arrest. The arrests were made on the basis of inquiry and CCTV footage, he added.

Sources revealed that senior police officers are recording the statements of the six contractors Innova Source, Creative Engineer, Quess Corp, Needs, Rand Stad and Adheco Group, who have supplied labourers to the company.



SFI STAGES DHARNA

Members of SFI and other organisations staged dharna in front of Kolar DC Sathyabhama's office on Saturday, demanding a detailed probe into the violence at Wistron Corp. They urged the police to arrest labour contractors who allegedly failed to pay pending salaries to workers. They demanded immediate release of workers who were arrested.

HC rejects ex-minister's plea in money-laundering case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a setback to former minister Katta Subramanya Naidu and several others, the Karnataka High Court dismissed their petitions claiming properties attached by the Directorate of Enforcement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Justice John Michael Cunha said the contention by the petitioners that their prosecution is based on ex post facto law is liable to be rejected.

According to the order, the Deputy Director of ED filed a complaint under Section 45(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on March 24, 2014 against

Naidu and 23 other accused seeking their prosecution under Sections 3 and 4 of the Act and also for confiscation of all the attached properties. The ED stated in the complaint that Naidu directly and indirectly indulged, knowingly assisted, knowingly was a party and was involved in the process and activities connected with the

proceeds of crime, including its concealment, possession, acquisition or use and claiming it as untainted property. The total amount involved in the offence of money laundering was ₹27.05 crore.

The judge noted that no one has an inviolable right to enjoy the wealth acquired by him by illegitimate means.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
O/O, THE OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT, MADRAS
"Corporate Bhavan" II Floor, No. 29, Rajaji Salai, Chennai - 600001.
Telephone No: 044-25271149/51, Fax: 044-25271152,
Website: www.olchennai.in, Email : olmadras@gmail.com

FORM NO.63
RULE 148(1) of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
IN THE MATTER OF BEST & CROMPTON ENGG. LIMITED
(IN LIQN.)

COMPANY PETITION NO. 63 OF 2013
ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM

Pursuant to the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 20.11.2020 made in Company Application No. 280 of 2020, notice is hereby given to the creditors of the above named company that they are required to submit to the Official Liquidator of the Court proofs of their respective debts or claims against the above named company by delivering at the office of the Official Liquidator on or before 19.01.2021, or sending by post to the Official Liquidator so as to reach him not later than the said date, an affidavit proving the debt or claim in the prescribed form Form No.66 (copy of the same can be downloaded at www.olchennai.in) duly stamped and notarized with their respective names, addresses and particulars of debt or claim, and title to priority under section 529, 529A and 530. Any creditor who fails to submit his affidavit or proof within the time limited as aforesaid will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his/her debt is proved, or as the case may be from objecting to such distribution.

Any creditor who has sent in his/her proof, if so required by notice in writing from the Official Liquidator, shall either in person or by his/her advocate, attend upon the investigation of such debt or claim at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his debt or claim as may be required.

DATED AT CHENNAI THIS THE 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2020.

Sd/- (K. LATHA PARIMALAVADANA)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR (I/C), HIGH COURT, MADRAS.



STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC, Lalbagh Road,
73, 1st Floor, Lalbagh Road, Sudhamnagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
Tel : 08022114022, Email : sbi.40690@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SUB SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED ACT)

At your request, State Bank of India has extended various credit facilities to the borrower **Sri. Rajesh Mavaji**, S/o Mr Bellappa Mavaji, (hereinafter called as borrower) through its **RACPC Lalbagh Branch**, by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the Bank. Relevant particulars of the said credit facility and the security agreement (s) executed by the borrower(s)/mortgager(s) are furnished in the demand notice dated 23.11.2020. The relevant particulars of the said assets are also specifically furnished here under. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facility has become irregular, the debt has been classified as non-performing assets on 07.11.2020, in accordance with the directives/ guidelines issued by the Reserve bank of India. Consequently to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest there on, Demand notice dated 23.11.2020 under section 13(2) of the said Act was duly served on the borrower(s)/ mortgager(s). As some of the envelopes containing the said demand notice sent by registered A/D to the borrower(s) / mortgager(s) where returned unserved, this notice is now being published in the leading newspapers after affixing a copy of the notice at conspicuous place of the working place/ residence of the borrower(s)/ mortgager(s) as per the provisions of the said Act.

A/c No: HTL 38989700289
Name and Address of the Borrowers: Sri. Rajesh Mavaji, S/o Mr Bellappa Mavaji, C104, "WHISPERING MEADOWS", Flat C1-403, RMV, 2nd Stage, Main Road, Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560-094
SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of Residential Flat No B-010, in Ground Floor, having Super Built up area of 1328 Sq.ft in the building complex called "LOTUS PALACE" along with Two Covered car park space in the basement and undivided right interest 526.33 Sq.ft Schedule A property bearing Sy no.1/3, 1/4 and 1/5 feet, situated at Kasavanahalli Village, Varthar Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and the same is bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Private Property. North by: Munireddy Shyamanna Reddy Marappa Property. South by: Private Property.

Title deed details: Sale Deed dated 12/12/2019 registered as Document No. HLS-1-05556-2019-20 Stored in CD No HSLSD416 dated 12-12-2019, at Office of the Sub-Registrar, Halasuru, Bengaluru.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower and legal heirs, Guarantors/ mortgagers hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount **Rs. 76,70,194.00** (Rupees Seventy Six Lakh Seventy Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Four only) as on 21/11/2020+ interest from 22/11/2020.+ Cost & Expenses and other legally recoverable dues within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The borrower/mortgagers are also put on notice that in terms of the section 13 of section 13 of the Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is without prejudice to the Bank's rights to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable Provisions of Law.

The borrower/Mortgagers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of the Bank and is empowered to issue this notice and exercise powers under section 13 of the Act.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 19.12.2020

Sd/-
Authorised Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby inform to the Public, the said Mr. Sylvester Stany slaus S/o. Santhoji Rao, residing at No.150, 2nd Main, 7th Cross, Hoysala Circle, Kengeri Upanagar, Bangalore-560060 and Mrs. Jimcy Johnson residing at Thunduvila House, West Koratti, Mambra P.O. Kallur Thekkumuri, Thrissur Kerala-680308. The above said persons are both Majors and are willing to marry and are interested to live together.

If any objection from any person or any institute can contact on or before 7 working days from this public notice.

Sd/-

L. SHANKARANARAYANA, B.A., LL.B
Advocate, New No.6, Old No.182, Spurthi Nilaya, 6th Cross, 3rd Main, SBM Colony, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050. M : 9448146813

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the Sale Agreement between Confident Group and Mr. Sandeep G.R. for the Flat number 1503, CONFIDENT ANTILIA III, Sarjapura, Attibele Road, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 562125, Near Sarjapura Police Station, beside St. Philomena School, has been lost or misplaced. All the persons are hereby informed that not to carry on any transaction on the basis of said missing document. As the single owner of the mentioned flat, I, Sandeep G.R. invites claims or objections, if any, for the transfer of the same flat. In case of any claims/objections, kindly intimate the undersigned along with the relevant documents to support the claims /objections within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. In absence of any claim within stipulated period, it shall be deemed that the property has no claim by virtue of lost agreement. Place - Bangalore Date - 20/12/2020 Name - Sandeep G.R. Address - No 283/C 38TH CROSS 8TH BLOCK JAYANAGAR B'LORE -70 ph :- 9880800399



Karnataka Forest Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PO BOX-930, Kulshekara, Mangaluru - 575 005
Ph: 0824-2230346 Fax: 0824-2231032 e-mail: kfdcedmrg@dataone.in
No.: KFDCE/DA/31-5/2020-21 Date: 16.12.2020

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders through electronic tendering system are invited for the Supply of M.S. Reconditioned Empty Barrels (210 Ltrs. Capacity-Minimum gauge 20-weight 18 Kgs.) - 18000 Nos.

The pre-bid meeting for supply of M.S. Reconditioned Empty Barrels will be held on 13.01.2021 at 11.00 AM. The last date for submission of tender documents is 20.01.2021 upto 15.00 hours. The technical bid will be opened on 22.01.2021 at 15.30 hours. The financial bid will be opened on 25.01.2021 at 11.00 hours.

For tender details please visit <http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details, contact this office during office hours.

KARNATAKA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
DIPR/ADM/MCA/704/20-21 dt.19.12.20 Sd/- Executive Director, Mangaluru



भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान
Indian Institute of Packaging
An autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

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INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE (ITC) IN PACKAGING

Course Duration 3 Months Full time Course
Commences From 4th January 2021 at Mumbai.

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Admission: on first-come-first served basis. Application form and prospectus can be obtained from IIP Mumbai by paying Rs. 100/- in cash or by DD in favour of Indian Institute of Packaging payable at Mumbai.

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(Accredited by The Asian Packaging Federation) • Course Duration 18 Months

Eligibility: Graduate in Science, Engineering, Technology, Commerce and Arts from UGC recognized University / Diploma from recognized technical board in Engineering / Technology are eligible for the course. Candidates should have minimum one-year industrial Experience in the operational areas like Production, Purchase, Marketing, Quality Control etc. Application form and prospectus can be obtained from IIP Mumbai by paying Rs. 250/- in cash or by DD in favour of Indian Institute of Packaging payable at Mumbai.

Last date for receiving filled application form is 31st December, 2020.

Candidates can visit IIP website www.iip-in.com and submit application form through online.

Indian Institute of Packaging

E-2, Road No. 8, MIDC Area, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 093.

Tel : 91-22-2821 9803, Ext.: 108/301/303/304/310.

Fax : 91-22- 28328178 / 28375302

Web: www.iip-in.com Email: info@iip-in.com / meip@iip-in.com

For Details Contact

Dr. Babu Rao Guduri : +91 7208119238 Mr. Bhushan Surpur : +91 9821022112
Mr. A. S. Rawi : +91 9869620990 Mr. Nitin Raibole : +91 8692943727

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Canara Bank

SME Peenya Branch,
No. 473, D(7), 13th Cross, 4th Phase,
Peenya Industrial Area,
Bengaluru - 560058.
Ph: 080-28360037/2661.

(A Government of India Undertaking)

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and/or Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **SME Peenya Branch of Canara Bank**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06.01.2021, for recovery of Rs.6,52,23,143.46 (Rupees Six Crores Fifty Two Lacs Twenty Three Thousands One Hundred Forty Three and Paise Forty Six Only) and interest & other charges there on from 01.12.2020 due to the **SME Peenya Branch of Canara Bank from M/s Indo Metal Lubricants**, No B-35, 2nd Cross, 3rd Stage, Peenya Industrial Estate, Nelakadranahalli, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore- 560058. represented by its Proprietor Mr. B Chandralhasa Shetty Flat No 303, Harita Apartments, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross, 5th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. The Reserve price, Earnest Money Deposits, Auction date, last date of submission of Bid details are as under. The Earnest Money shall be deposited by way of DD favouring Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, SME Peenya Branch, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer - IFSC CODE CNRB0002454) to the credit of the account number 2454295000001, Canara Bank, SME Peenya Branch, Bangalore on or before 04/01/2021.

The properties can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on or before 04/01/2021 by 5.00 pm.

Sl No	Description of the immovable Assets	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value at Bid
1.	Industrial Land & Building at B-35, 2nd cross, 3rd Stage, Peenya Industrial Estate, Nelakadranahalli, Yeshwanthapura Hobli Bangalore-58 in the name of M/S Indo Metal Lubricants. Extent of Site - 5282 sq ft. Building Plinth area - 3850 sq ft.	Rs 270.00 Lakhs	Rs 27.00 Lakhs	Rs 1.00 Lakhs
2.	Factory land situated at No.P-9, 2nd Cross, 3rd Stage, Peenya Industrial Area Nelakadranahalli, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore 58. Extent of site - 5262.6 sq ft. Building plinth area - 14280 sq ft.	Rs 385.00 Lakhs	Rs 38.50 Lakhs	Rs 1.00 Lakhs

known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Assistant General Manager, **SME Peenya Branch, Canara Bank**, Ph. No. 9987554449/9741969259/7975725335 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 18.12.2020
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the The Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
Department, Division, Gadag Phone: 08372-297256. Email id : ee.rws.gdg@gmail.com
Tender Notification No EE/RDWSS/GDG/AE/TND/2020-21/ 1408 Date: 19.12.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Gadag invites Work tender from eligible PRED Contractor related to RDWS&S Division, Gadag District, for the works with details as given below

Sl. No.	Indent No.	Amount Put to Tender	EMD Amount
1	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26562/Call-2	56.88 Lakhs	1.14 Lakhs
2	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27320/Call-2	82.09 Lakhs	1.66 Lakhs
3	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26690/Call-2	58.98 Lakhs	1.18 Lakhs
4	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26558/Call-2	83.77 Lakhs	1.68 Lakhs
5	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26647/Call-2	84.63 Lakhs	1.70 Lakhs
6	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26650/Call-2	86.39 Lakhs	1.73 Lakhs
7	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26557/Call-2	74.74 Lakhs	1.50 Lakhs
8	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26641/Call-2	82.01 Lakhs	1.65 Lakhs
9	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27280/Call-2	85.40 Lakhs	1.71 Lakhs
10	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26589/Call-2	61.39 Lakhs	1.23 Lakhs
11	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27122/Call-2	58.97 Lakhs	1.18 Lakhs
12	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27130/Call-2	61.39 Lakhs	1.22 Lakhs
13	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26576/Call-2	52.78 Lakhs	1.05 Lakhs
14	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT25848/Call-2	86.42 Lakhs	1.73 Lakhs
15	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26513/Call-2	58.24 Lakhs	1.16 Lakhs
16	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26493/Call-2	55.53 Lakhs	1.11 Lakhs
17	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26714/Call-2	55.64 Lakhs	1.11 Lakhs
18	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26719/Call-2	75.05 Lakhs	1.50 Lakhs
19	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27127/Call-2	57.90 Lakhs	1.16 Lakhs
20	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27298/Call-2	65.07 Lakhs	1.30 Lakhs
21	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT26660/Call-2	66.97 Lakhs	1.34 Lakhs
22	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27142/Call-2	65.80 Lakhs	1.30 Lakhs
23	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27138/Call-2	63.92 Lakhs	1.28 Lakhs
24	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27319/Call-2	66.22 Lakhs	1.32 Lakhs
25	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27316/Call-2	61.68 Lakhs	1.24 Lakhs
26	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27312/Call-2	59.22 Lakhs	1.18 Lakhs
27	RWSSD/2020/WS/WORK_INDENT27317/Call-2	69.88 Lakhs	1.39 Lakhs

Government of Tamil Nadu
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND AGRI BUSINESS
TAMIL NADU SMALL FARMERS' AGRIBUSINESS CONSORTIUM
 (CIPET Road, Thiru.Vi.Ka.Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032)

Reference No: TNSFAC/101/2020, Dated: 19-12-2020
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (TNSFAC) invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible agencies complying with minimum eligibility criteria for empanelment as Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) for Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Tamil Nadu under the Central Sector Scheme for Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs.

The EOI document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria, etc. can be downloaded from the websites www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tn.gov.in and www.agrimark.tn.gov.in.

The last date for submission of EOI is **4th January, 2021 upto 1500 hrs only as hard copy**. The applications in the prescribed format together with all necessary enclosures should be submitted in a sealed envelope mentioning "EOI for empanelment as Cluster Based Business Organizations for Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Tamil Nadu under the Central Sector Scheme for formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs" on the top of sealed cover, by post to the captioned address.

Managing Director
Tamil Nadu Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium
Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business
CIPET Road, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy,
Chennai – 600 032, Tamil Nadu

DIPR/4776/TENDER/2020

Government of Karnataka ZillaPanchayat, Shivamogga
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation
Division, Shivamogga
No: EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/AE-II/JJM/E-Proc/1560/2020-21
Date : 17.12.2020

Tender Notification (through e-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, item-war tenders are invited for approved works of implementation of Functional Household Tap Connection for each house under JalJeevan Mission at SorabaTaluk coming under the limits of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga District for the year 2020-21 from the contractors registered in Panchayat Raj Engineering Department for the period 2020-25 in Class 3 and above as per Standard Tender Documents for e-procurement of work KW-2 & 3. Those who are paying the cost of forms and EMD in e-payment may be paid through Credit/Debit cards.

1. The last date for submission of filled-in tender (e-procurement) : **25.12.2020 till 5.30 P.M.** 2. Date and time of opening of technical bid : **27.12.2020 at 11.30 AM**, 3. Date and time of opening of financial bid : **29.12.2020 at 11.30 AM**, 4. Duration : 60 days.

If the above dates happens to be a public holiday, the next day will be considered. Information on tender works and conditions may be obtained in the Department's website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water
and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.45
 12zenkar/2020-21

Government of Karnataka
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION,
VIJAYAPUR.
 I.F.T.No: EE/PWP/NJP/PB/8443/2020-21/03613 Date: 18.12.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (e-Procurement)

1. The Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) for Construction of Central Library Building at Vijayapur City. (W.I. No. 128180) work as per standard bid documents KW-4 with 8443-Deposit Contribution head of account costing of amount for **Rs. 160.00 Lakhs**, the EMD amount of **Rs.2,40,000.00** for the work. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as detraind by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows

(1) The Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors Date: 31.12.2020, 11.00 AM. **(2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date: 05.01.2021 upto 4.30 PM.** **(3) Opening of Technical Bid Date: 07.01.2021 at 11.00 AM.** **(4) Opening of Financial Bid Date: 08.01.2021 at 11.00 AM.** Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e. "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
 ಹಾಸನ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 432/ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಎ/2020-21

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APATHMITRA ON 14410

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
 State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001
 tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax : 080-22215602

Tender No. SAK/C5/200/2020-21 Dated : 18.12.2020

Short-term Tender Notification
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject : Supply and installation of Basketball Poles.

According to Karnataka Transparency in public procurement act 1999 and Rules 2000, the Department of Youth Empowerment and sports is inviting tender for the supply and installation of Basketball Poles.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Tender Amount (INR in Lakhs)	EMD amount (INR in. Lakhs)
1	Supply and installation of Basketball Poles	49,26,000/-	98,520/-

The Tender should be submitted through e-procurement portal (<http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>). Vendors need to register in the e-procurement portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-procurement Portal.

1) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E-Procurement Portal : Dt. 28.12.2020 time 16.00 Hrs.

2) Opening of Technical Bid : Dt 29.12.2020 time 16.30 Hrs.

3) Opening of Financial Bid : Will be intimated.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned address. **Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin) and TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY**
Dept. Youth Empowerment and sports.

DIPR/DOU/SSC/2091/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Engineering Wing
 Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:cekhshdrp@gmail.com & cekhshdrp-hlws@karnataka.gov.in

No: HFWD/EW/EIC/TA-3/AE-2/PMC-TND/2020-21/2775 Date: 19.12.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Engineer-in-Chief, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible consultants/firms for Appointment of Consultant for Providing Project Management Consultancy Services for the following work in two tender document system through e-procurement.

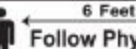
Description of work: Project Management Consultant Services for the work of Construction of 100 bed Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma, Orthopedic centre & Construction of Super Speciality Hospital Phase II including Oncology Block in the District Hospital premises at Vijayapura. Approximate PMC cost: **Rs. 30.00 lakhs.** Earnest Money Deposit at **Rs. 0.60 lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **15 months.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders : **06.01.2021 upto 16.00 hrs.** (2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **08.01.2021 at 16.00 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the e-Procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible Consultants shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief,
HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
 Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division, BBMP Office, Near Chowdeshwari Bus Stop, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054

No.: RRND/EE/Tend/08/2020-21 Date: 18.12.2020

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)

TWO COVER TENDER - Short term Tender Notification
(Only through E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

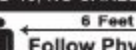
(Standard Tender Document - KW 4)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements and Development of School Building at Jalahalli in Ward No. 16.	200.00	3,00,000/-
2	Providing asphaltting to remaining Roads in Lavakusha Nagara, Rajivgandhi Nagara and Byraveshara Nagara in Ward No. 69.	180.00	2,70,000/-
3	Providing and fixing SS Street Name Boards in Laggere Ward surrounding in Ward No. 69, Laggere.	100.00	1,50,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka from **24.12.2020.** (2) Last date for submission of Queries: **05.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m.** (3) Pre-bid meeting at Chief Engineer Office, RRNZ: **06.01.2021 at 11:00 a.m.** (4) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m. on 11.01.2021** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-Procurement portal guidelines. (5) Date of opening of Technical bids is on: **13.01.2021 at 4:00 p.m.** (6) Date of opening of Financial bid is on: **16.01.2021 at 4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division, BBMP

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION ORGANISATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, ANGUL :AT: TALCHER
 At- Baghuabole, Po.- Hatatota, Talcher, Dist.- Angul, Pin- 759100
 (Ph. No./ Fax - 06760-240762, E-mail : eewssang@gmail.com)

National Competitive Bidding through e-procurement
Bid Identification No. 05/EE/RWSS/ANGUL/2020-21 Dt. 15.12.2020 (JMM)

0-755: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at: Talcher on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/Percentage bid through e-procurement in double/single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.

Nature of Work : Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes.

1. No. of Tenders	: 7 Nos.
2. Tender Paper Cost	: Rs. 6,000.00 to Rs. 10,000.00
3. Value of work	: Rs. 46.31 Lakhs to Rs. 197.78 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: "B" & "A" Class
5. Date & time of availability of bid document	: 22.12.2020 at 13.00 hours to 30.12.2020 upto 17.00 hours
6. Date & time of seeking tender clarification	: 28.12.2020 upto 17.00 hours
7. Date & time of opening of tender & verification of original document	: 31.12.2020 at 15.00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at: Talcher
8. Time of completion	: 5 (Five) to 8 (Eight) Calendar Months
9. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in .	
10. Corrigendum if any shall be publish in the above website only.	

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Angul at Talcher

OIPR 250 19/11/00 13/2021

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
 No. 473, D(7), 13th Cross, 4th Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru – 560058.
 Ph: 080-28360037/2661,

(A Government of India Undertaking)

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and/or Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **SME Peenya Branch of Canara Bank**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **22.01.2021 between 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM**, for recovery of **Rs.6,52,23,143.46** (Rupees Six Crores Fifty Two Lacs Twenty Three Thousands One Hundred Forty Three and Paise Forty Six Only) and interest & other charges there on from **01.12.2020** due to the **SME Peenya Branch of Canara Bank from M/s Indo Metal Lubricants, No B-35, 2nd Cross, 3rd Stage, Peenya Industrial Estate, Nelakadranahalli, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bangalore- 560058, represented by its Proprietor Mr. B Chandrahassa Shetty Flat No 303, Harita Apartments, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross, 5th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003.**

The Reserve price, Earnest Money Deposits, Auction date, last date of submission of Bid details are as under. The Earnest Money shall be deposited by way of DD favouring Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, SME Peenya Branch, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer – IFSC CODE CNRB0002454) to the credit of the account number **2454295000001**, Canara Bank, SME Peenya Branch, Bangalore on or before **20/01/2021**.

The properties can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on or before **20/01/2021** by 5.00 pm.

Description of the immovable Assets	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value at Bid
Residential property at Flat No. 303, Harita Apartments, 2nd floor, #112, 11th Cross, 5th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560 003 in the name of Sri B Chandrahassa Shetty. Extent of site : Undivided share – 705 sq ft. Super Built area – 1650 sq ft.	Rs 125.00 Lakhs	Rs 12.50 Lakhs	Rs 50,000/-

known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Assistant General Manager, **SME Peenya Branch, Canara Bank**, Ph. No. 998754449/9741969259/975725335 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 18.12.2020

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
 Registered Office: Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, #148 Embassy Square, Ground Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
 Phone No.: 080 - 22256688/22289966, Fax No: 080-22264477
 e-mail: mail@vjnl.in Website: www.vjnl.in CIN-U41000KA2016SGC097260
 Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No.01, Kadur.
 e-mail I.D.: eubtpdv1@gmail.com Phone No: 08267 - 295207

No: V.J.N.L/UBP/E.E.D.1/Kadur/Corr/BCB&Checkdam/2020-21/535 Dated: 14-12-2020

CORRIGENDUM
(Through e-procurement only)

Reference: 1) This office short term tender notification No: 490/2020-21 dt: 30-11-2020
 2) This office short term tender notification No: 491/2020-21 dt: 30-11-2020

Percentage tender through e-portal in Two Cover System (as per K.T.P.P act 2000) was invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd., Bengaluru for the work 1) "Construction of Bridge-Cum-Barrage Across Vedavathi River for the Road Connecting from Choulahiriur to Vaklagere Village in Kadur Taluk Chikkamagalur District" and 2) "Construction of Bridge cum Check Dam across Veda Hall near Jiganehalli Village in Kadur Taluk, Chikkamagalur District" was published by this office vide reference (1) & (2) respectively. Now due to technical reasons dates are postponed and the revised date will be intimated later.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. . Phone No. 080-22265383
 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENG/ETND-EP-39/9666/2020-21 Date: 19.12.2020

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I & above Contractors (Electrical) registered in KPWD & KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works: 1) Providing Basic Electrical Infrastructure facilities and Street lights arrangements at Raichur Housing Layout (Left Side Area from Main Entrance Arch), Raichur District. Package-1. 2) Providing Basic Electrical Infrastructure facilities and Street lights arrangements at Raichur Housing Layout (Right Side Area from Main Entrance Arch), Raichur District. Package-2.

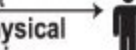
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **02.01.2021 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:2110/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

NOTIFICATION

TIMBER, FIRE WOOD, BILLETS AND POLES SALE NOTIFICATION

E-Auction Sale of Timber, Firewood, Billets and Poles will be held in G.T.D Anekadu 05-01-2021 to 08-01-2021, 11-12-2021 & 12-12-2021 at 10-00 A.M.. By the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Madikeri Division, Madikeri Or Officers Authorised by him subject to Terms and Conditions. Interested persons may contact in the below Address or over Phone Number.

08276-271143 / 08272 228305

Madikeri Deputy Conservator of Forests,
 Dated: 15-12-2020 Madikeri Division, Madikeri

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 (CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal)
T.O. Enquiry No. SEE/RMGC/CIVIL/2020-21/291(3rd Call)
 Dated: 17.12.2020.

Tenders are invited for Construction of Section office building and connected development works at Dommasandra, Attibele Sub Division, Chandapura Division (3rd Call) through e-procurement portal in Two Cover system. Last date for submitting the bids is **19.01.2021 up to 16.00 Hrs.** All the payments such as tender cost, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. For details, please visit website: <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
 For electricity related complaints Call: 1912 Superintending Engineer (Ele).
 Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP RMGC, Kengeri, BESCOM.

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
 CIN: U85110KA1998SGC024503
 Regd. Office: No. 1, Coffee Board Building, 4th Floor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 560 001.
 Phone: 22283074-78, Fax: 22386015
 e-Mail: technnl@gmail.com

No: KNN/Empanelment/Survey Consultancy/2021-25 Date: 20.12.2020

INVITATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF SURVEY CONSULTANTS

1. KNNL is empanelling private consultants for carrying out survey, investigations, designs, etc., for preparation of DPR of various projects under its jurisdiction. Empanelment of such consulting firms is being done after verifying the credentials of the firms duly obtaining the approval of the Estimate Review Committee (ERC). Only such empanelled firms are eligible to participate in the tenders for consultancy works.

2. The empanelling survey consultants should submit their detailed company profile.

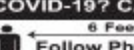
3. The major portion of the survey consultancy works are proposed to be tendered under the following category: **Category-I:** Survey consultancy works costing more than **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** **Category-II:** Survey consultancy works costing more than **Rs. 50.00 lakhs** and up to **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** **Category-III:** Survey consultancy works up to **Rs. 50.00 lakhs.**

Only such of the Consultants who are qualified and empanelled in the select list of Consultants will be eligible to apply for works under above category. However, KNNL reserves the right to separately pre-qualify the consultants for works of specialised nature.

4. Details of instruments / equipments required / Human Resources / Annual Turnover / Application Fees / etc., can be downloaded from our website www.knnlindia.com

Sd/- Managing Director,
KNNL, Bengaluru

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APATHMITRA ON 14410

Kerala poll: More leaders come out against Congress

Allies blame internal bickering, insensitive comments of party leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

THE Opposition UDF is heading for a big crisis with resentment brewing among leaders of the Congress and allies over LSG poll debacle. The allies blame that internal bickering in the Congress and the insensitive comments of its leaders damaged the front's prospects of a huge win in an otherwise advantageous situation.

Senior Congress leader and MP Rajmohan Unnithan on Saturday joined the chorus for a leadership change in the party. He opined that KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran who owned responsibility for the defeat should quit the post as well.

Unnithan has the support of some senior leaders who want replacement of three key functionaries - the Opposition Leader, KPCC president and UDF convenor. "Mullappally owned up responsibility for the defeat

to save some others. Why would he alone take up the responsibility? Isn't there a joint responsibility?" he asked. Earlier, K Sudhakaran and K Muralaeddharan had called for a change in leadership to strengthen the party ahead of the ensuing Assembly election. Muralaeddharan commented that an overhaul was required for the party and not just a "skin care".

Senior leader T H Musthafa singled out Chennithala for the defeat. On Saturday, he told mediapersons that Chennithala was a failure and should be replaced with Oommen Chandy.

Allies IUML and RSP blame factional feud in the Congress and conflicting statements of senior leaders for the adverse results. IUML leader and MP P K Kunhalikutty has reportedly held talks with senior leaders of Congress and other allies. His party views that a leadership change is necessary in the Congress and the UDF. He, however, refused to blame any sin-

gle leader for the defeat, in public.

The RSP is learnt to have conveyed its extreme displeasure over the front's performance. The party leadership is even thinking of quitting the front in case corrective steps aren't taken immediately. Senior leader Shibu Baby John told the media that his party was unhappy over the front's functioning. "We have strong protest and anger against the front's functioning. But it is not the fault of any individual," he said adding that Congress never learns from its mistakes.

"Not any individual can make the front better. A big effort is needed to convince people that the UDF is viewing politics seriously. We will suggest corrective measures at the UDF meeting," he told reporters. After Kozhikode, posters calling for K Sudhakaran's appointment as KPCC chief appeared in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday.

Exposure to Transstroy at ₹678 crore: Canara Bank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CANARA Bank on Saturday clarified that it has an exposure of Rs 678.28 crore in the account of M/s Transstroy India Ltd, reported as fraud to the RBI on February 10, 2020, where 100 per cent provision has been made in the account.

M/s Transstroy India Ltd. (TIL), established in the year 2001, is engaged in building infrastructure across various sectors. The company was enjoying limits from various banks under a multiple banking arrangement from 2001. Subsequently, a consortium with Canara Bank as a leader and 13 other banks was formed in 2013, and the total limit sanctioned was Rs 4,765.70 crore,

and the share of Canara Bank was only Rs 678.28 crore," according to a statement issued by Canara Bank on Saturday.

"Out of Rs 7,926.01 crore fraud amount, the amount of lending made by all the 14 consortium members is Rs 4,765.70 crore. The remaining amount was lent under a multiple banking arrangement. Out of this, exposure of Canara Bank is Rs 678.28 crore only," the statement said.

The case was referred to NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) and was admitted by NCLT, Hyderabad, on October 10, 2018. The company is under the process of liquidation. The company has already been declared as a wilful defaulter by Canara Bank on December 26, 2018, the statement added.

EXPRESS READ

3 burglars held

Bengaluru: SG Palya police arrested a gang of three burglars and seized booty worth ₹4.5 lakh. The accused were allegedly involved in a series of house burglaries in Bismillanagar. The accused have been identified as Imran Ahmed (30), a resident of Bismillanagar, Syed Zameer of Hongasandra (28), and Athik Pasha of BTM Layout (31).

Mobile thief arrested

Bengaluru: Indiranagar police on Friday arrested a 23-year-old man who had burgled an electronics goods showroom and made away with mobile phones. The accused is Tabrez Khan, a resident of JJ Nagar. Police said that on September 9, Khan and associates broke open the shutter of an electronics store and fled with 12 mobile phones and other gadgets worth ₹4.36 lakh.

KASTURIRANGAN REPORT: IT'S FRICTION BETWEEN ECO-BALANCE, LIVELIHOOD

Opposition to report echoes in Malnad areas, uniting political leaders and voters, while green activists say people are being misled and made to boycott Gram Panchayat polls

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Joida

WITH Gram Panchayat elections round the corner, the Kasturirangan report on the Western Ghats is back in focus again.

While environmentalists favour implementing the report, bringing vulnerable and ecologically sensitive areas of Sahyadri under protection, several villagers in the Malnad belt are threatening to boycott the elections in protest against the report, which they feel not just prevents them from getting adequate infrastructure, but also threatens their livelihood.

The K Kasturirangan-led high-level working group (HLWG) report — known as Kasturirangan Report — which was submitted to the Centre in April 2013 has been facing resistance in the ghat states. In Karnataka, the stiffest opposition is from people in the Malnad region, especially in Hassan and Chikkamagaluru districts.

The report says around 37 per cent of the total area defined as the boundary of the Western Ghats is ecologically sensitive. Over this area of some 60,000 sqkm, spread across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, HLWG recommends ban on activities with maximum interventionist and destructive impact on the environment. However, this clashes with the demands of the people living in these areas.

Nineteen gram panchayats, which are in eco-sensitive zones, have resolved to boycott the Gram Panchayat elections in Chikkamagaluru district.

Several associations in Balamuri and Maldare villages of Kodagu district too have threatened to boycott elections. People of Balamuri in Madikeri taluk are demanding houses under the government scheme for the



Villagers carry out road-laying work near Terali village in Uttara Kannada | DHEMANTH

labour class, while youth associations of Maldare village in Somwarpet taluk want improved playground facilities.

Around 680 voters of Koothi village in Somwarpet taluk have not just threatened to boycott the polls, but also submitted a detailed memorandum to the tahsiladar. "We had threatened to boycott polls last time too, and our demands included setting up of a proper mobile network, better road connectivity, ration shop and power connection. We were given assurances, but none of them were fulfilled. This time, we have decided to boycott elections completely," said Lakshminikanth of the village.

Villagers in Sakleshpur taluk of Hassan district too have threatened to follow suit. At Hettur, Heggadde and Hongadhalli Gram Panchayats, no one has filed nominations, while 28 candidates from Maragunda, Neeranahalli, Hiremandi and Kogaravalli gram panchayats have withdrawn their nominations.

The Karnataka Growers' Federation and Anti-Kasturirangan Report Protest Committee from Chikkamagaluru district allege that the report, if implemented, will snatch away the lives of people. The unanimous decision to protest was taken by the two organisations, elected representatives, farmer association and others at a meeting held recently.

Mallesh, a senior coffee grower from Hassan, says, "The villagers decided to boycott the elections long ago, but the district authorities failed to address their grievances despite being aware of it. The issue could have been solved had the officials taken villagers into confidence."

Kiran Anasakar, a farmer from Joida taluk in Uttara

Kannada district, points out how many basic needs, like roads and water, are out of reach because of present laws. "We are not aware of the Kasturirangan

Report, but local leaders fear that this could stop any development activity in the region. We had to fight for so many years to get good roads. The current forest laws seem enough for protection and villagers are apprehensive of any new law or report," he said.

Ecologists in Hassan allege that district authorities failed to reveal the pros and cons of the Report and local residents fear adverse impact.

DV Girish of Bhadrar Wildlife Conservation Trust in Chikkamagaluru points to a lack of awareness among people on the contents of the report. "People are being misguided. The government should have engaged in a consultative process and listed out the clauses that are acceptable and those that are not. Politicians want people to run to them for help

as it benefits them. People want a good environment in the district, but oppose the report. They should not think that they would be displaced and they have to stop agricultural activities," he says.

Dinesh Holla of Sahyadri Sanchaya in Mangaluru criticises the delay in implementing the report. "Already, there has been a widespread destruction of areas in the Ghats that are listed to be protected under the report. We are seeing large-scale natural disasters almost every season. Large estate owners and those who own benami land are misleading the locals. Those opposing the report have not read it, nor do they know what is in the report. The state government should have ensured that the last man understood the report and printed it in Kannada. Let people decide what is good for them. In the interest of the Ghats and ecological security of the region, the report must be implemented," he says.

Environmentalists from Uttara Kannada district, Balachandra Hegde, says the misinformation campaign against the report must be stopped.

"There are many points in the report which are beneficial to the locals. The report also safeguards forests of the Western Ghats which serve as a lifeline. There are already strict laws to stop further damage to the Ghats and we must think about it. Though it seems the report is opposed in Kerala as well, the Forest Department in that state has submitted the list of reserve forests to be included in the project. There have been no such efforts in Karnataka. Many ecologists too are varied about the report as it gives permission for mini-hydel projects which have proved disastrous for the Ghats," he says.

With inputs from: Marx Tejaswi (Chikkamagaluru); Prajna GR (Kodagu); Prakash Samaga (Udupi); and B R Uday Kumar (Hassan)

Centre to pump in ₹1.16 L-cr to develop K'taka highways

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister of Highways and Road Transport Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said his ministry is investing ₹1,16,144 crore in Karnataka for the development of highways and roads. Nineteen projects, at a cost of ₹31,035 crore, are in progress under the Bharatmala and other schemes, he noted.

After laying the foundation stone at a virtual event and dedicating 33 National Highway projects worth ₹10,904 crore, covering a length of 1,197 km, he gave details about the highway projects in progress and those in the pipeline. "To provide smooth connectivity to the ports for the benefit of trade and economy, 433 laning projects of the coastal road from the Goa border to Kerala border connecting port cities of Belekere, Karwar and Mangaluru, covering a length of 278 km, have been taken up at a cost of ₹3,443 crore and the work has substantially been completed," he said.



Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and other ministers interact with Union Minister of Highways and Road Transport Nitin Gadkari via video conferencing in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

For the safety of road users, three projects have been sanctioned for providing protective measures on hill slopes in Shiradi Ghat on NH-75, Charnadi Ghat on NH-73, and Sampaje Ghat on NH-275, at ₹115 crore, he said.

The Detailed Project Report has been approved for the construction of a 23.60-metre tunnel for Shiradi Ghat at an estimated cost of ₹10,000 crore after vetting from the Indian Institute of Science, and the bid document, statutory clearances and land acquisition

plans are in progress, he said.

Three projects, spanning 76 km in Karnataka on the proposed Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, a priority project which includes the Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, have been approved and bids have been invited, Gadkari said, adding that the final feasibility report on setting up a Multimodal Logistics Park in Muddalingenahalli near Dobbsspet is expected during February 2021. This project will improve efficiency, enabling reduction in logistics cost.

Gadkari said his Ministry has approved ₹218 crore to Karnataka under Central Road & Infrastructure Fund and this will be released soon in the first instalment this year after the utilisation certificate is submitted.

CM BS Yediyurappa sought to expedite the improvement of all congested intersections on national highways connecting Bengaluru, besides upgradation of the existing four-lane NH section from Bengaluru to Tumakuru to eight lanes with service roads. He urged Gadkari to release adequate grants to take up flood damage repair works as Karnataka had suffered severe damages to infrastructure.

The CM said he will press upon deputy commissioners for the speedy disposal of pending cases regarding land acquisition to speed up highway projects. The investment of ₹1.16 lakh crore for highway development in Karnataka by the Centre will help boost the state's economy, he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the General Public that my client **K.SURENDRA BABU**, son of **Sr.K.Subramanyam Naidu** has lost/misplaced an original allotment letter, vide **SI No.0325**, dated **09/08/1992** from his custody on **28/11/2020** around **1pm to 2pm** in the Xerox shop near **SBI Bank, ITI Layout, Nagarahalli, Bangalore**. So if any persons found the above said original allotment letter, be pleased to inform/handover the same to the undersigned.

D. HARDEEP Advocate,
No.75, 2nd Cross, Spoorthi Nagar,
Arehalli, Bangalore-560 061,
Ph: 7795562207.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Following E-tenders are invited by **DRM (WA) NWR/Ajmer** at **15.00 Hrs** on the mentioned date: **Tender No. 183/2020**, **Name of work: Rebuilding/ Strengthening of GC standard Bridges in MD-PNU (Up Line) Section in connection with running of higher loads and higher speed (Bridge No. 334,376,373,430) and Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 461 on MD-PNU Section.** **Approximate Cost: Rs. 2,26,08,579.01**, **Earnest money: Rs. 2,63,100.00**, **Tender Closing Date: 08.01.2021**, **Tender No.: 184/2020**, **Name of work: Ajmer Division: Supply of 65mm size machine crushed stone ballast in Morthala depot and loading into Railway Hoppers open top wagons at Morthala station in connection with complete Track Renewal Works.** **Approximate Cost: Rs. 6,05,45,553.60**, **Earnest Money: Rs. 4,52,700.00**, **Tender Closing Date: 08.01.2021**. The detailed information of the above tender is available on website **www.reps.gov.in** and **Tender Notice Board of DRM Office, NWR/Ajmer**. **886-58229**
Please join us on **Twitter** **Facebook** **LinkedIn** **NRWRailways**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

शुद्धि पत्र
इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या **RE-RDD/SD/ HZB/17/2019-20 पी0आर0 संख्या 237086** (Rural Development) में प्रकाशित निविदा की तिथियों में अप्रतिहार्य कारणवश निम्नप्रकार से संशोधन किया जाता है:-

क्र०	NOTE :-	NOTE :-
1	3. The Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Self attested photo copy of all uploaded documents must be submitted up to 04.01.2021 by 5.00 PM. If Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate and EMD are not received before mention date and time then the tender of the related tenderer shall not be accepted.	3. The Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Self attested photo copy of all uploaded documents must be submitted up to 29.12.2020 by 5.00 PM. If Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate and EMD are not received before mention date and time then the tender of the related tenderer shall not be accepted.

निविदा की शेष राशि यथावत रहेगी।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
PR 237857 (Rural Development)20-21#D

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that on behalf of our clients, we are investigating the title of **M/S LEELA LACE HOLDINGS PVT LTD**, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 having its registered office at **Leela Baugh Andheri Kurla Road, Mumbai 400 059, Maharashtra** in respect of their ownership interest in immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder written ("Property")

ALL persons having or claiming any right, title, or interest in respect of the Property or any portion thereof and the access to the same, whether by way of sale, exchange, lease, let, license, mortgage, inheritance, gift, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, possession, development rights, joint ventures, partnerships, loans, advances, attachment, injunction or under any decree, order or award passed by any Court of Law, Tribunal, Revenue or Statutory Authority or arbitration, right of prescription or pre-emption or otherwise of whatsoever nature, are hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, along with documentary evidence in support of the same to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the title of **M/S LEELA LACE HOLDINGS PVT LTD**, as the owner of the Property shall be deemed to be clear and marketable and free from claims, if any, shall be treated as having been waived and thereafter no claim or dispute in respect of the Property shall be considered.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that piece or parcel of land admeasuring **24404 sq.mtrs** and Commercial Office building standing thereon known as **Leela Galleria** consisting of First to Seventh floors, total admeasuring **1,24,826.88 sq.ft** of carpet area, situated in site No.94, 95 and 96, HAL II stage, Kodihalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.

Dated this day of 19th of December, 2020
Mr.Shivashankar A
Advocate
No.16/16, 2nd Floor, 4th Main,
Tata Silk Farm, K R Road,
Bangalore-560070.

ALL persons having or claiming any right, title, or interest in respect of the Property or any portion thereof and the access to the same, whether by way of sale, exchange, lease, let, license, mortgage, inheritance, gift, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, possession, development rights, joint ventures, partnerships, loans, advances, attachment, injunction or under any decree, order or award passed by any Court of Law, Tribunal, Revenue or Statutory Authority or arbitration, right of prescription or pre-emption or otherwise of whatsoever nature, are hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, along with documentary evidence in support of the same to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the title of **M/S LEELA LACE HOLDINGS PVT LTD**, as the owner of the Property shall be deemed to be clear and marketable and free from claims, if any, shall be treated as having been waived and thereafter no claim or dispute in respect of the Property shall be considered.

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WILD ENCOUNTER

In a first, black panther spotted in MM Hills Sanctuary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

A black leopard was captured in a camera trap installed at the PG Palya range of MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary again. A few months ago the big cat was spotted at the Biligiri Ranganathaswamy temple (BRT) tiger reserve.

Black leopards are often spotted in Kabini or Bandipur tiger reserve and also in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai forests. But, very recently a camera trap had captured an image of a black leopard moving in front of it at the BRT tiger reserve, bringing cheers on the face of wildlife en-



A camera trap image of the black panther

thusiasts in the region.

Forest officials are still not sure if the black leopard is the same which was spotted at BRT, but predict that the big cat might be of six or seven years of age.

"This is the first time ever that a black leopard has been spotted at MM hills sanctuary.

Over the years, the animal protection has been increased in the sanctuary and there is also increase in the population of prey animals, which might be the reason for leopard to enter this area," said V Yedukondalu, deputy conservator of forests MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

TAMILNADU HOUSING BOARD J.J.NAGAR DIVISION

SEALED OFFER - CUM - OPEN AUCTION NOTICE

Tamil Nadu Housing Board, J.J.Nagar Division, has proposed to sell the reserved plots of Commercial site, Prime Commercial Site, Convenience shop site, Daily market site, Public Purpose site, Religious purpose site, Cinema Theatre site, and Community Hall site (**Total - 92 Nos**) in the following schemes of J.J.Nagar East Scheme, J.J.Nagar East - Padi Industrial Scheme, J.J.Nagar West Scheme, Nalambar Ph I Scheme, Ambattur Ph I & II Scheme, Ambattur Ph III Scheme, Thirumullaivoyal 120 MIG Flats Scheme, Avadi Site & Service Scheme through Sealed Offer - Cum - Open Auction. The details are as follows.

Sale of Application form From 21.12.2020 to the previous working day of auction between 11.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M

AUCTION DATE : 08.01.2021

Please also visit **www.tnhb.tn.gov.in** website for the details regarding of Code No, Name of the scheme, Category of plot, Plot Number, Plot Extent, Upset Price and Application Cost, 15% Cost of Plot along with Application, Period of sale of application, Allotment conditions etc., For, further details, kindly contact the following Address.

Office of the Executive Engineer & Ado, J.J.Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, 3rd Floor, TNHB Shopping Complex, Thirumangalam, Chennai - 600 101, Phone No.044-26154577.

Executive Engineer & Ado, J.J.Nagar Division

WISTRON SAGA AND THE STATE OF STATES

THIS week, the powers that be in Karnataka presented a text book case of how not to improve investment climate, rather how to deter investments. The social media is rife with conspiracy theories, but the violent incidents in Kolar at the Wistron plant point out the need for a reality check of systemic fault lines. The harsh fact is you cannot win Formula 1 with the Indian avatar of the British Morris.

For nearly a decade, India's governments invested political capital to woo manufacturers of iconic products to 'make in India' by leveraging skill availability and low manpower cost. The tide of economics, propelled by rising wages in China, produced an opportunity for India to woo investors who were headed to Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Mexico. The consequences of the pandemic accelerated thought on re-configuring the supply chain of manufacturing away from China.

The crafting of the productivity-linked incentive scheme — which leverages tax breaks for the promotion of electronics manufacture, specifically smart phones in India, for global marts — afforded an opportunity for global producers to set shop in India. Wistron began operations in August, and two other Taiwanese contract manufacturers Foxconn and Pegatron signed up for cell phone assembly plants, promising an investment of nearly \$900 million in the next few years.

You would think that the government of Karnataka would have done its due diligence on the 'who-how-what' of the operations — particularly, in the light of the fact that the Wistron plant was associated with an iconic product, the Apple iPhone, with global brand resonance, a brand which triggers nearly 4 million results when Googled. That though was not the case. The destruction of property and over 150 arrests has highlighted the level of systemic apathy.

At the heart of the issue is non-payment of wages. The employees allege wages were not paid for months. The company claimed all payments were made to the temp-staff companies which contracted the employees. It now transpires — after enquiries by the Karnataka Labour Department and pressure by Apple — that employees were indeed not paid. The moot point is whether the systems available provided for protection off rights and prevention of such an incident.

The hiring of employees through temp staffing companies is not new, not in the industrial hubs of India and, particularly, Karnataka. The question is whether there exists a mechanism for redressal of norms? Did the government ensure that the temp staffing companies informed/educated workers of the existence of a mechanism? Surely, there are global and local best practices to adopt.

The gap between laws, regulation and redressal mechanism is not unique to Karnataka. The domain of labour dispute resolution across India is a messy landscape of delays and decay. In its report on the Industrial Relations Code 2019 submitted in September, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour reveals "about 23,000 cases are pending in 22 Central Government Industrial Tribunals" and six of these tribunals had no presiding officer at the beginning of 2020.

India's aspiration for a \$5 trillion economy simply cannot be sustained by Licence Raj era governance, legislation, institutions and regulatory framework. The disruption caused by technology and structural shifts in business models — for instance, the gig economy — call for modernisation of laws and regulations. Sustainability of any policy in a modern economy depends on the robustness of the regulation and implementation capacity of the state — particularly the last mile of delivery which is the first mile of governance.

The crux of change is located in the state of governance in the states. The need for upgrading capacity to face new realities is manifest and has never been so urgent. The consequence of resident sloth is visible across global rankings. The latest UN Human Development Report, released on Tuesday, places India at 131 among 189 countries. On the face of it, India has slid by one spot but the broader picture is grim — other countries have done better.

India trails all its peers in the BRICS grouping on overall ranking. India has been in the grouping of medium human development for a decade and trails Nicaragua in life expectancy, Tajikistan in average years of schooling. Every measure of human development depends on how state governments deliver. Yet, state governments have scarcely shown the urge or urgency.

Indeed, even the seductive notion that alignment of political power in the Centre and the States propels change is yet to play out — despite being in power in 15 states, the BJP is yet to present the demonstration effect which Gujarat provided. Take the issue of the recently passed laws to liberate agriculture. Till the agitation arrived in Delhi, there was no sign of any persuasion leave alone evangelism of the potential opportunities in the states where the BJP is in power.

The centralisation of policy design and its political narrative has produced a perverse collateral consequence — it has co-opted state leadership, disincentivised initiative, and allowed states a free pass on accountability for poor governance.

DECLINE & FALL OF THE CONGRESS. AGAIN

POINT OF VIEW
TJS GEORGE

KAPIL Sibal, a distinguished legal luminary who is also an ardent Congressman, said recently: "People don't see Congress as an alternative to the existing government. We lost all by elections in Gujarat. In some UP constituencies, Congress candidates got less than 2 per cent votes. Three candidates in Gujarat lost their deposit." He must have added more sorrowful tales to his list after the last week's local elections in Kerala. The ruling Communist-led coalition reduced the Congress-led group to a poor also-ran. That the BJP was trampled mercilessly on the tracks was their only consolation.

This should be an eye-opener to the Congress leadership because Kerala is the only state where the party has some locus standi. At the national level, the party has been continuing to give the impression that it has only a part-time leadership. Rahul Gandhi's handling of his role in the party has been eccentric. For all practical purposes, he was the Congress although he resigned the presidency in 2019, two years after he was elected. He continued his habit of going on picnic at critical junctures.

Driven to the wall, 23 well-known

leaders of the Congress wrote a letter to the High Command seeking a full-time President. What a pathetic situation for the Great Congress to be in. The High Command remained too high to bother. One of the 23 said after the party's dismal performance in the recent Bihar elections: "There was no review of the electoral defeat in 2014, none in 2019 and none after all the other elections we have lost. Why should anything be different this time around?"

Of course, everybody knows that it is the Gandhi family's unquestionable status that keeps the Congress immobile and ineffective. Even the Group of 23, all of them seniors, found it proper to say that they were not questioning the legitimacy of the Gandhi family's right to leadership. What legitimacy? The whole point is that it is the presumed legitimacy of that presumed right that is at the root of the problem. It is that "legitimacy" that makes the Congress a family preservative of the Gandhis and, thereby, renders it unacceptable to the people as an alternative.

Why were the Senior 23 afraid to tell the truth — that pushing the Gandhi family name to gain legitimacy and votes is a bad idea? Why don't they confront the point raised by Kapil Sibal and ask why the Congress is not seen as an alternative government? If they do, they will see that Sonia Gandhi's politi-

cal inexperience and Rahul Gandhi's political naivety have something to do with the Congress being not an alternative.

Actually it is Rahul Gandhi who must bear the burden of guilt in this unhappy episode. His name is the problem. People think that a man named Gandhi has responsibilities that others do not have. This is an unfortunate assumption. But it is part of our historical inheritance. That Rahul Gandhi understands, the naturalness of the assumption is clear from his continuous presence on the frontline of politics. His tragedy — and India's — is that he is never taken seriously enough. He does not command the weight of Indira Gandhi or even Rajiv Gandhi. That he is seen as a lightweight is bad not just for him. It is bad for India, too.

But he is Gandhi. Gandhis com-

mand the Congress. This Gandhi was on picnic when elections were taking place in Gujarat. That did not diminish his status because he was Gandhi. The story of non-Gandhis in the Congress is almost forgotten. Sitaram Kesri, president of the Congress before Sonia Gandhi, was dethroned in a publicly humiliating style as Sonia Gandhi took his place. P V Narasimha Rao, another president of the Congress, was pushed out without grace; his dead body was not even allowed inside the party headquarters for people to pay respects.

The Congress led by Jawaharlal Nehru was qualitatively different from the Congress led by his daughter Indira Gandhi. The legitimacy of the Congress as a movement that represented the people of India was lost under Indira. It became, instead, a political party with narrow, personality-based, political objectives in mind. The power of Indira's personality gave it some weight. With that gone, the Congress turned uninspiring, to say the least.

Rahul Gandhi's ways are too aberrant to change that reality. The Congress suffered also as a consequence of the aggressiveness of the ideologically driven Hindutva lobby. The resoluteness of the BJP made up for the narrowness of its doctrine. The Congress was the main sufferer in the process. Unfortunate but true.



THE THIRD EYE
SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

METRO-NIZAM WHO WANTS TO BE NATIONAL MUGHAL



POWER & POLITICS
PRABHU CHAWLA
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PHYSICS says every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Narendra Modi's kinetic personality coalesced the Hindu psyche into a national political movement. Organised Hindutva that rose as a monolith from the ugly debris of appeasement and pseudo-market politics created a vacuum to be exploited. The 51-year-old Asaduddin Owaisi, the third generation political dynast of Hyderabad and inheritor of quite-a-mighty All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, had been waiting for such a chance. A national Islamic party is the dream of India's 195 million Muslims, which Barrister Owaisi from Lincoln's Inn dreams to realize for himself.

Alternate politicians are mutants of the original gene, the reason why Indian politics remains mono-dimensional. They have no alternative agenda except their own religious and/or caste affiliations and identities. The road to hell is paved with the footprints of people who tried to acquire political legitimacy by floating parties for minorities, tribal and Dalits. From All India Muslim League to the Republic Party of India, outfits were launched to seek national clout and proportional power share at the Centre and the states. None of the national parties allowed a Muslim leader to become a national icon, by either marginalising them or diminishing them with ornamental posts.

Owaisi's sherwani is cut from a different cloth. He assumes he has the right degree and pedigree to claim the space of the Great Indian Muslim Leader. His skullcap hides an astute MBA (Muslim Brotherhood Alternative) strategist, who is polarising Muslims

and Dalits away from the national mainstream to expand his market. After tasting victories in Maharashtra and recently in Bihar, he now has West Bengal in his sights. Undeterred by allegations that he is a BJP fifth columnist launched to split anti-BJP votes, Owaisi is well on track to become the tallest Muslim leader of post-Independence India. Bengal has over 27 per cent Muslim voters. Owaisi is expected to split these traditionally pro-TMC votes, compelling Mamata Banerjee to nickname AIMIM, the BJP's B-team. Owaisi retorted, "Never was a man born who can buy Asaduddin Owaisi with money". Then, never before has a metro leader got such national prominence and media attention. Indian Muslims lack intellectual and popular leadership to craft a united strategy. They are kept in ignorance by minority maneuvers, ghettoised by clerics and adopted by Left wing moralists. This leadership gap has helped Owaisi assume the Caliph's throne. On any Islam-related issue, it is he whom TV channels, institutions and think tanks invite to represent the minorities ignoring his party's tainted past.

AIMM has an unsavoury past and a controversial present. Like in the Congress, the Akali Dal, the Shiv Sena, the DMK, the National Conference, the Samajwadi Party etc, DNA controls the AIMM, too. While other parties were floated to fight for freedom or to represent caste and regional interests, the AIMM's mandate was to fight India. It began life in 1927 as the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) in the Princely State of Hyderabad to launch the struggle for a "Muslim dominion". In 1944, its radical leader Qasim Rizvi mobilised over one lakh Razakars to organise an armed resistance against the merger of Hyderabad with India. They terrorised, looted, raped and murdered thousands of Hindus. The Indian Army put down the rebellion and Rizvi was jailed.

Before leaving for Pakistan in 1957, he chose Abdul Wahid Owaisi as his successor. Grandfather Owaisi added 'All India' to Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen to acquire pan-India Muslim connectivity and became the undisputed leader of the Muslims settled in and around Hyderabad. Over 18 years, he transformed AIMM into a formidable



He (Owaisi) assumes he has the right degree and pedigree to claim the space of the Great Indian Muslim Leader. His skullcap hides an astute MBA (Muslim Brotherhood Alternative) strategist, who is polarising Muslims and Dalits away from the national mainstream to expand his market

political empire. His son Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi was so powerful and popular that he was called Salar-e-Milat (commander of the community). He ensured victories in local elections and became a Lok Sabha MP. AIMM became influential enough for its headquarters to merit a visit from the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Now, Abdul Wahid's grandson Asaduddin represents his father's Lok Sabha seat and has always won. Younger brother Akbaruddin, who doesn't hide his extremist anti-India views, is the leader of the party in the Telangana Assembly.

However, family ownership of the party isn't Asaduddin's only qualification to claim the credible minority leader position. He is carefully choosing constituencies that can multiply his votes if not seats. As per the Election Commission, any party can acquire national party status if it gains at least six percent of valid votes polled in any four or more states in a Lok Sabha election or a state legislature. It must win a minimum four Lok Sabha seats. Alternatively, it must bag two percent of the total Lok Sabha seats representing

three states. Currently, AIMIM holds two Lok Sabha seats and 14 of over 4,000 Assembly seats in India. Nationally, its vote share is below one percent. It hasn't garnered over three percent votes in any state, including stronghold Telangana. This explains Owaisi's expansionist plan, striking alliances with castes and non-Hindu communities. He believes he can lasso Dalits into his grand alliance of deprived classes. He tried this formula in the Maharashtra Lok Sabha and Assembly elections by collaborating with Dalit leader Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi but came away with just two Assembly seats.

Owaisi is scripting his electoral travelogue to suit his ambition. AIMM's stellar performance of 31 seats out of 78 in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh civic body elections has given him hope. He has extended support to JD(S) in Karnataka. Though he dreams of a national empire, his party is just nominally present in eight states. He is conspicuously absent in Kerala where the Muslim League monopolises the community votes. He will be contesting around 25 seats in Tamil Nadu next year. Like other national parties fielding the token Muslim, Owaisi has fielded a few Hindus in various local and state elections to dilute his hard core Islamic image. This most vocal Opposition leader against CAA and the abrogation of Article 370 has been cultivating other social groups, too. His party liberally funded flood relief in Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Kerala but its leaders spew venom against Hindus. Owaisi argues "AIMM may be a political party that takes up the cause of not only Muslims but also Dalits and other weaker sections. It's not a Muslim party." ... "Who has given them (critics) the right to call me secular or communal or anti-national?" However, he forgets that the literal translation of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-ul-Muslimeen is "All India Council for Unity of Muslims".

Owaisi is, perhaps, channeling Jinah who said, "expect the best, prepare for the worst." His best tactic is to prepare himself as a minimised Minority Modi — a combination of irresistible ideology and articulate ambition. But for the neo-Nizam of Hyderabad trying to be the next Shahenshah of Hindustan, it will always remain a mirage.



QUOTE CORNER

I have learned through our intelligence sources and they have picked up information that India is planning a surgical strike against Pakistan. This is a serious development and I also have knowledge that they have tried to seek tacit approval...

Shah Mehmoode Qureshi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister

I can't say much more as we're still unpacking precisely what it is... This was a very significant effort, and I think it's the case that now we can say pretty clearly that it was the Russians that engaged in this activity (hacking)

Mike Pompeo, US Secretary of State

This will be the third Christmas that Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor spend in arbitrary detention in China. I remain hopeful to receive good news an hour from now, a day from now, a week from now, a month from now.

Justin Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister



MAILBAG WRITE TO
letters@newindianexpress.com

Bad debts and bad bank

The lack of concern at the governmental level over trillions worth public funds going down the drain as irrecoverable debts every year is appalling. The idea of setting up a bad bank to shoulder the burden of non-performing assets of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) is only its manifestation (TNIE, Dec 19). It is interesting that the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) K V Subramanian has expressed himself against the idea. But what's the use? Bad bank, or no bad bank, there are already enough channels for steep haircuts the PSBs undergo about which the CEA has expressed his anxieties

Geetha B K, Mangaluru

End clostmate over agri laws

The government's optimistic stand in finding a hopeful solution to the farmers' agitation against the new agri laws before the end of this year will go a long way to put an end to the crisis and warm

the cockles of the agitating farmers. Both the government and the protesting farmers should put their heads together and then discuss threadbare about the pros and cons of the farm laws on the clause-by-clause objections and come back to the convincing point so as to reach an amicable solution beneficial to both welfare of farmers and problems of peasants. True magnanimity consists not in never falling but in rising everytime we fall.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Clean politics is a myth

This has reference to the news 'Defection game peaks, MLA Tiwari flips later'. Of late, West Bengal has been in the limelight for violence and political slugfest. BJP is bragging that it is very much a principled party with anti-corruption as its breath. Though corruption has to be eradicated with vigour through raids from various monitoring agencies such as CBI, ED etc, so far these measures were enforced on the opposition leaders only to muffle them. Many TMC leaders were dubbed corrupt earlier who were supposedly involved in chit fund

scams as alleged by the BJP earlier. Now many of them switched their loyalty. Will these leaders be tried legally! Unethical politics is also corrupt. BJP has to decimate TMC in elections only and not through backdoor methods.

R Sridharan, Chennai

Justice must for Hathras girl

It is noteworthy that the four accused in the gang-rape of a Dalit girl in Hathras were charged by the CBI on Friday, over three months after the crime that triggered outrage across the country. The CBI has also invoked charges against the accused under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The victim's cremation was allegedly done without the family's approval and her family was harassed and threatened through different ways by the Uttar Pradesh police, and the accused were supported by some leaders of the ruling party. What was worse is that the main accused had written to the police from jail, claiming that he and the three other accused are being framed in the case and sought "justice". He had also accused the woman's mother and

brother of torturing her, while the family had denied these allegations. I condemn all the injustice and baseless statements and support that were given that time by some political leaders and organisations as well as the main accused's false allegations against the victim's family. Hope justice will be given soon!

B Ahsanullah, Delhi

Proud to be from Hyderabad

It is strange that non-local leaders who had campaigned in the GHMC elections proposed to change the name of Hyderabad. As a Hyderabadi, I would like to ask them whether they would first change their names and the names of their native places. It was also irritating to see a few channels running debates on name change for TRP ratings. I would ask the same question to them. The citizens of Hyderabad feel proud to be called as a Hyderabadi than with any other name as our Hyderabad Biryani and mixed language is world famous since it replicates our culture of unity in diversity.

T Kaishash Ditya, Hyderabad

TWEETS
OF THE
DAYKailash Vijayvargiya @KailashOnline
The end of Marmata raj is near. Influential leader Suvedu Adhikari today joined the BJP family.Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
I have been warning people about Chinese actions. China continues to make preparations while GOI sleeps. Timely action is critical for India.Prashant Bhushan @pbbushan1
All of us should mark out the Godi media channels who were saying that the Hatras Victim died due to honour killing

newindianexpress.com



A Nihang holds the Tricolor at the Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Saturday during farmers' protest; (right) people with visual impairment join at Singhu border | PTI



PM OR SHAH SHOULD TALK TO US, SAYS FARMERS' UNION

Says Tomar not acceptable as he can't take decision, warns against harassment of 'artiya'

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

CLAIMING that Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar cannot take any decision about the contentious agri laws, the largest farmers' union of Punjab said either Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah should talk with the agitating farmers.

Joginder Singh Ugrahan, president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), said, "If any panel or committee is formed by the government or on the direction of the Supreme Court, representatives of all the farmer unions should be its members. Talking with Agriculture Minister Tomar is not acceptable as he cannot take any decision. The PM or the home minister should talk as any decision about the farm laws will be taken at the PM's level. We have not received any intimation about any talks or

CC
In our talks with the government, we have given 18 amendments and the government has till now agreed on eight. What about the rest of the 10 amendments?

Harmeet Singh Kadian, BKU (Kadian Group)

any legal proceedings." Farmer leaders also warned against 'harassment' of artiyas (commission agents. "If the central agencies keep troubling the artiyas and other businessmen who are supporting the farmers by raiding their premises, then we will lay siege to income tax offices," said Darshan Pal, president of Kartikari Kisan Union.

The income tax raids were conducted on the premises of several big artiyas of Punjab within a span of four days.

Reiterating the demand for repeal of the farm laws,

Harmeet Singh Kadian of BKU (Kadian Group) said, "In our talks with the government, we have given 18 amendments and the government has till now agreed on eight. What about the rest of the 10 amendments? The best solution is to repeal the laws rather than amending them."

Ugrahan said the sacrifices of the people martyred during the farmers' agitation will not go waste. These sacrifices have made people more determined to take the struggle to its logical end, he asserted.

Shingara Singh Mann, state secretary of BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), said gatherings would be held on December 26 in villages across Punjab to pay homage to those who have lost their lives.

On December 26, 15,000 protesters will march from Khanauri border and on December 27 another 15,000 will start a march from Dabwali.

We will reach Delhi fully prepared, say Maha farmers

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

KISAN GUJAR, 71, has been closely following the farmers' agitation against the Centre's new farm laws at the borders of the national capital for the last three weeks. Gujar, one of the 5,000 farmers from Nasik who are scheduled to join the protesting cultivators in Delhi on December 24, said he is determined to stay there till the end of the stir, even though more than 20 farmers have died at during the ongoing agitation.

He said the farmers are set for a long battle amid the bone-chilling cold in Delhi and are carrying enough food and necessary items along with them. Farmers from Maharashtra will organise a vehicle march from Nashik to Delhi on December 21 and join those protesting in the national capital.

President of the Bharatiya Kisan Sabha Ajit Nawale said over 10,000 farmers from 21 districts of Maharashtra have extended their support to protest in Delhi. He added that around 10,000 farmers will come at the Maharashtra border before the 5,000 farmers will leave for Delhi.

"We are firm on our demand to repeal the farm laws and bring a new law that will ensure the minimum support price (MSP) to farmers' produce. If the traders fail to pay as per the MSP, then actions should be taken against the errant traders," Nawale said.

Interestingly, among the protesting farmers in the state, many had earlier participated in the protest march from Nasik to Mumbai in 2018 against the Devendra Fadnis government's agriculture policies.

"Initially, we had planned to walk up to Delhi, but this would take a lot of time. Therefore, we decided to go by vehicles. We will not come back until our demands are not met by the central government," said Gujar.

Sanjay Patil, 51, from Jalgaon said during the lockdown, agriculture was the only sector that helped the economy sustain. "Now, the government wants to break the backbone of economy, too. We will not allow this to happen," Patil said.

Raj CM blames Centre for Cong failure to waive farm loans

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

RAJASTHAN CM Ashok Gehlot on Saturday hit back at PM Narendra Modi's allegation that the state government has not waived off farm loans and blamed the Centre for the failure of the Congress poll promise.

Claiming that he has waived ₹15,000 crore of farmers' loans from the state's cooperative banks, the chief minister, while talking to the media in New Delhi on the completion of two years of his government in Rajasthan, said he has been unable to waive loans from various nationalised and commercial banks owing to the lack of cooperation from the Centre.

He said the nationalised banks come under the purview of the Centre which is dithering on directing banks to waive their loans to farmers. "We have waived off farmers' loans from cooperative banks, but nationalised banks come under the Centre and the RBI. They are not able to waive off the loans as the Centre is not directing them to do so," the CM said.

Before the Rajasthan Assembly polls in 2018, then Congress president Rahul Gandhi had promised to waive off farmers' loans within 10 days if his party was voted to power in the state.

CENTRE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ARHTIYAS: AMARINDER SINGH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday accused the Centre of adopting "intimidatory tactics" against 'artiya' by conducting income tax raids on their premises. He warned that such "draconian measures" will further aggravate the angst of people against the BJP-led Union government. The income tax raids were conducted on the premises of several big artiyas (commission agents) of Punjab within a span of just four days of issuing notices without waiting for response, claimed Amarinder in a statement. Even the police were not informed or taken into confidence as is the normal procedure, he claimed.

Beniwal quits 3 Parl panels, to decide on NDA ties next week

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

RAJASTHAN'S Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal on Saturday resigned from three Parliamentary committees in support of farmers' agitation against the Centre's agriculture-related laws, indicating that his Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), the only ally of the NDA in Rajasthan, may withdraw its support from the alliance.

He also said the final decision on the future of the alliance will be taken on December 26. The RLP chief also announced a massive rally on December 26 in support of the farmers. Beniwal along with around 2 lakh supporters will also begin a march to Delhi.

Addressing the media after a meeting in Jaipur on Saturday, Beniwal, a prominent leader of the Jat community in Rajasthan, said his party has always stood for the farmers and will continue to do so.

"I had raised various people-centric issues with the committees I was part of in Parliament. It is sad that action has not been taken on the issues. There is no justification for committees in the parliamentary system if action is not taken," Beniwal said in a statement.

He added: "As the issues remained unheard, I am tendering my resignation from the committees." Beniwal was a member of parliamentary committees on industries; petroleum and natural gas; and petitions.

A week ago, Beniwal had said the PM should implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission for farmers. Addressing the Kisan Mahapanchayat in Kotputli, Beniwal had alleged that the Centre did not discuss with anyone before bringing the laws.

Earlier, Beniwal had planned to lead a rally to Delhi on December 12 but later, deferred it for seven days.



POWER-HUNGRY BJP TRYING TO TOPPLE ME ON DAILY BASIS: GEHLOT

THREE-TIME Rajasthan Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot**, on completing two years in office, talked to **Rajesh Asnani** where he presented his report card, attacked the Central government for failing to provide any help to the states in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

How do you analyse your first two years of your third term as the chief minister and what are the big achievements?

I have become the CM three times only through the support and blessings of people of the state who are aware about who truly works for their welfare. These two years have been quite challenging since seven months went in model observing the model code of conduct due to elections and the last nine months we have been battling the coronavirus. But I am satisfied that despite these difficulties, we have done our best to serve the people of the state.

We are trying to provide a sensitive, transparent and accountable government to the people. We have written off loans for over 20 lakh farmers. We asked the central government to allow farm loans from nationalised banks to be waived but they did not agree. For the first time in the country, we have made it compulsory for FIRs to be registered and we have enabled FIRs to be lodged even in SP offices. We have opened 201 English medium schools and 90 government colleges in the past two years. We have cleared the opening of 15 new medical colleges and this will ensure medical colleges in 30 of the 33 districts in the state. The remaining three districts already have private medical colleges. Under the Indira Rasoi scheme, we are providing good quality food for just Rs. 8 for the poor. Also, from December 18, we have launched the Jan Kalyan web portal whereby people can access forms and details of all government schemes at one site. We still have three years to take Rajasthan to new heights of development.

Farmers even from Rajasthan are currently staying outdoors even in winter nights demanding the repeal of the farm laws. How do you see this farmers' protest?

Dialogue is essential in every democracy and if you want to make fresh laws you must discuss them with all stakeholders. Sadly, the central government held no consultations with farmers before passing such sweeping laws. We enacted bills against these laws but the governor has not yet forwarded them to the President. Despite repeated requests, even the President is not giving any time to meet CMs like us. Though farmers in Punjab kept protesting for four months, the Centre held

no talks with them. Due to no dialogue, farmers are protesting in this cold wave for over three weeks. I salute the indomitable spirit of the farmers who are fighting for their rights.

In the panchayat elections, the Congress had a setback but it did well in the urban municipal bodies. How do you see these results?

In the panchayat elections, the Congress did not lose as we got more votes than the BJP and we have the same number of pradhans as the BJP. In these 21 districts, the BJP had won 61% votes in the Lok Sabha elections but now they have got just 43% votes. Due to corona protocols, we did not send our senior leaders to campaign but the BJP even sent its union ministers who kept flouting corona guidelines. In the municipal elections, the BJP has lagged behind even the Independents and got a majority in just four of the 50 urban bodies. People have rejected the BJP's negative politics and blessed our efforts with success.



The political crisis that erupted in July-August after Sachin Pilot's revolt made national headlines. How do you see that challenge now?

Ever since the BJP came to power in 2014, it has been plotting to bring down governments led by opposition parties. For this they have used all kinds of dubious methods, including misuse of the governor's office in many states to bring down state governments. They succeeded in their nefarious designs in Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Manipur, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. But due to the unity of our MLAs and the blessings of our people, we prevented their efforts to topple the government. Our MLAs have shown that money and muscle power can be resisted.

You have recently said the BJP is again trying to topple your government. BJP leaders failed in their designs but they are so power hungry that they keep trying to topple your government on a daily basis but I am confident we will complete the full five years. Some of their people had played similar games in the past during

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's tenure but I was PCC chief and prevented their evil designs. When the BJP tried to topple our government, even some of their own senior leaders like Kailash Meghwal warned them not to try such dirty tricks in Rajasthan.

Corona is a big challenge, how do you analyse your management of the pandemic?

Our corona management has been appreciated not only in the country but all over the world as we turned that challenge into an opportunity. As a result, today we have ICU beds and oxygen facilities in every district level hospital and we have increased the total ventilators by five times of the earlier number. We have testing labs in every district and have a capacity of 60,000 RTPCR tests daily. Besides fixing rates for private hospitals, we are providing free facilities, including injections costing even Rs 40,000 to poor patients. No wonder, corona is under control in our state and the 'Bhilwara Model' has been appreciated all over the world.

How are you managing the economic crisis that corona has created?

After the Covid crisis, our tax collections have seen a sharp dip and we asked the Centre to give us a special economic package. But instead of helping us, the Centre only gave a new name to their budget announcements and called it a new package which has served no purpose at all. They called it an act of God and asked us to borrow from the markets. The Centre is not even giving our GST dues for several months. Far from helping states, the Centre has left us to fight the pandemic all alone. With our own efforts, we are doing our best to counter this economic crisis.

What are your top priorities for the future? What help can people look forward to from your government on the corona vaccine front?

Getting the corona vaccine quickly will be one of our top priorities. We have asked the Centre to provide it for free so that even the poorest people can be helped. We have made a plan to ensure that the corona vaccine reaches everyone in the state at the earliest. We have sent suggestions to the Centre to ensure that the people get the best service.

STANDARD READ

AICC Assam, Kerala get new secys

New Delhi: Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Saturday appointed three All India Congress Committee secretaries each for Assam and Kerala where Assembly polls are slated for early next year to assist the respective general secretaries in-charge — Jitendra Singh and Tariq Anwar.

'N-E gateway to ties with S-E Asia'

New Delhi: Northeastern region is a gateway India's connectivity and relations with South East Asia and can be seen as a link between two fundamental pillars of Indian foreign policy, Neighbourhood First and Act East, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Saturday.

SANGH'S PILLAR

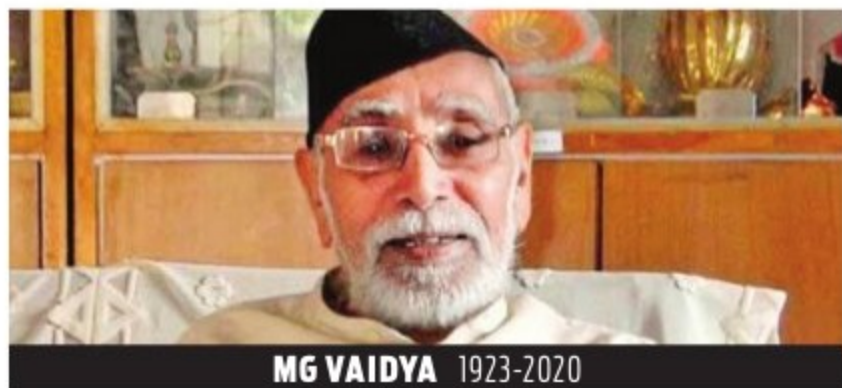
RSS ideologue MG Vaidya, who worked with its six heads, passes away at 97

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

MADHAV Govind Vaidya, who passed away on Saturday in Nagpur, was an ideologue of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh and eyewitness of its growth. He worked closely with six heads of the outfit from MS Golwalkar to Mohan Bhagwat. Besides being the first spokesperson of the organisation, he also edited Tarun Bharat, a pro-

RSS publication.

Vaidya, 97, had been ailing briefly in Nagpur. He reportedly had recovered from Covid-19 infection. A father figure within the RSS, most of Vaidya's family has been working for the outfit. He has left behind his wife Sunanda, five sons and three daughters. Two of his sons, Manmohan and Ram Vaidya, are senior functionaries of the RSS.



MG VAIDYA 1923-2020

"We have lost a veteran patron. Baburaoji (MG Vaidya) was a renowned scholar of Sanskrit. He was an eminent journalist. He excelled as a member of the Maharashtra legislative council. He was an eyewitness to the works of the RSS," said the RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Vaidya was part of the organisation when it decided whether to take a political plunge or

not. He later spearheaded the expansion of the RSS' political offshoot Jan Sangh in Maharashtra. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his condolence message, acknowledged Vaidya's contribution in strengthening the BJP also.

Within the RSS, Vaidya was a historian, reeling out information and anecdotes of the outfit from the days of the founder KB Hedgewar. Vaidya, while

teaching at Nagpur's Hislop College, had joined the RSS in 1943.

BJP MP from Nagpur and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari credited Vaidya for shaping the ideological depth of the RSS. Vaidya was at the forefront of Sangh's ideological laboratory as Akhil Bhartiya Baudhik Pramukh, the body essentially mandated for the ideological training of the cadre.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	12	Mumbai	32	21
Bhopal	26	8	Panaji	35	22
Jaipur	26	11	Patna	20	8
Amritsar	20	7	Lucknow	20	9
Chennai	30	21	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	22	10	Imphal	24	7
Srinagar	8	-2	Chandigarh	27	8



A file photo of health workers lifting samples. The Union Health Ministry has cited extensive testing as a reason for viral surges remaining at bay | EXPRESS

On verge of authorising first set of vaccine for Covid: Harsh Vardhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

STRESSING the need for an expeditious Covid-19 vaccination drive to fully cover the target population — estimated to be around 30 crore — Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Saturday said the country is on the verge of authorising the first set of vaccines.

During a meeting of the Group of Ministers on Covid-19, the Union minister also underlined that the pandemic growth in India has dropped to 2 per cent while the case fatality rate due to the coronavirus is at 1.45 per cent, which is among the lowest in the world.

Stressing that despite festivals in the months of October and November, no new surge of infection was observed due to comprehensive testing, tracking and treatment policy, Vardhan appealed to the public to diligently maintain "Covid-appropriate behaviour".

He also pitched the need for an expeditious vaccination drive to cover all the target populations.

“The pandemic growth in India has dropped to 2 per cent while the case fatality rate due to the coronavirus is at 1.45 per cent, which is among the lowest in the world — Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister

Sujeet Kumar Singh, director of the National Centre for Disease Control, presented a granular analysis of the trajectory of the pandemic in each state, pointing out critical parameters like positivity, testing, concentration of cases in particular districts and other trends like fatality and fatality within 48 and 72 hours of hospitalisation.

The paradox explained

Explaining the paradox of some states reporting very high cases but minimal fatalities while others reporting low cases but comparatively high fatalities, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that this phenomenon results from people not coming forward for testing due to poor health-seeking behaviour.

People in states with a vibrant public health-care system, on the other hand, are tracked and encouraged to be tested by grassroots health workers which inhibits the progress of Covid-19 in the patient to an advanced stage which allows these States to keep their fatality rate at minimum, the official added.

BJP hopes to ride on high-profile hoppers

Saffron party likely to trigger more defections from the ruling Trinamool Congress to march to power in Bengal

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

THE BJP has now seemingly taken pole position in being the party of first choice for the hoppers, with the saffron outfit gaining expertise in riding the quick rode to power with the help of political heavyweights from the ranks of the rivals.

On Saturday, the BJP in the presence of Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah, once again demonstrated its ease to gain outside talents as West Bengal political heavyweights led by Suwendu Adhikari walked into the saffron arms. In Bengal, the BJP has been well aware that the party cadre wouldn't be able to match up with the TMC's strength and that its best bet lied in political imports. Those who jumped ship to board the saffron bus were richly rewarded with Lok Sabha tickets in 2019. With its eyes set on capturing power in the eastern state, the BJP has now again engineered a similar exodus ahead of Assembly elections next year.

In Assam, the BJP had gained Himata Biswa Sarma, sulking in the Congress, and reaped unprecedented electoral gains in the entire Northeast. Sarma soon became the chief Sherpa of Shah to become the BJP's flagbearer in N-E, helping the saffron outfit gain power in several states, sometimes by triggering mass exodus from the Congress ranks. The party tasted



Union Home Minister Amit Shah having lunch at the house of a farmer in Midnapore district, West Bengal, on Saturday; the saffron party is expecting to wrest power from the TMC in next year's Assembly polls | PTI

success in Tripura by ensuring mass defection from the TMC and the Left. The BJP's knack of gaining outside talent helped the party script a social engineering in Uttar Pradesh, with imports from the ranks of Bahujan Samaj Party — Dara Singh Chouhan, SPS Baghel and others — who helped it gain acceptance among the extremely backward castes.

In Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the BJP had become aware of the party's graph

Social engineering in UP

The BJP's knack of gaining outside talent helped the party script a social engineering in Uttar Pradesh, with imports from the ranks of BSP and others

reaching the plateau with long years of incumbency bringing fatigue among cadres and supporters. In Gujarat, the BJP's victory margin had narrowed down in 2017, and in MP it had lost out in the race for power by a whisker in 2018. In both the states, the BJP subsequently went on to trigger defections. Jyotiraditya Scindia's induction earlier this year showed the BJP's acumen to wean away even top functionaries of the Congress.

That the BJP pampers the party hoppers is evident from the fact that its list of vice-presidents includes turncoats like B J Panda (ex-BJD), Annappurna Devi (ex-RJD), A P Abdul-kutty (ex-CPI) and Mukul Roy (ex-TMC).

2 UP families booked under interfaith marriage law

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

IN two separate incidents, 11 members of two families were booked on Friday under the newly promulgated anti-conversion law in Uttar Pradesh.

With this, the number of cases booked under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance-2020 has touched 10.

In the first case on Friday, five of a family in Etah district were booked. The case was lodged against a 28-year-old Muslim youth and his family, including three women, under

Jalesar police station area in Etah district, on the charges of abduction and conversion of a 22-year-old woman who is the daughter of a businessman.

In fact, as per the sources, the woman in question had "gone missing" on November 17. Sources close to her family said she adopted Islam on November 28, the day anti-conversion law was promulgated in the state. However, the sources claimed the conversion happened only after the woman got married. Javed, the man whom

the woman has allegedly married is also a businessman and runs a cloth shop. He happens to be a neighbour of the woman. No one has been arrested in the case so far.

In the second case on the day, a case was lodged in Shajahanpur, wherein, a 27-year-old man, his parents and three siblings were booked under the charges of rape and extortion and under the newly promulgated ordinance.

The case was lodged against the entire family on the basis

of a complaint filed by a 40-year-old woman who is the victim herself.

The letter was circulated at a time when TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, while addressing rallies in north Bengal two days ago, said ground-level workers are the asset of

the party, who will never leave while the wannabe defectors come and go with the tide.

Without naming anyone, Suwendu hit out at party leaders for humiliating and out-casting those who worked hard to build up the TMC. "It is therefore especially painful

It is painful that the individuals currently in charge of the party are treating it like their personal fiefdom. The very people on the backs of whom the party was created are now being sidelined

Suwendu Adhikari

that the individuals currently in charge of the party are treating it like their personal fiefdom. The very people on the backs of whom the party was created are now being sidelined, humiliated and out-cast. In their stead, these individuals have now hired external assistance. They have no knowledge of ground politics and the sacrifice it takes to work for a

shared goal as ambitious as creating the West Bengal of our dreams," he said.

Sources in the TMC said Adhikari pointed out at election strategist Prashant Kishor and his team by mentioning them as "external assistance".

POLL PITCH

Amit Shah slams TMC govt over corruption

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

REFERRING to Mamata's allegation of poaching, Shah said: "What was your original party? Was it the TMC? Didn't you poach from the Congress?"

Hitting out at the alleged corruption, Shah said, "No development took place in the past 10 years. The Centre's Amphan relief fund has been siphoned off by TMC goons. Foodgrain sent by the Centre was looted by your party. You should feel ashamed."

Referring to the attack on BJP national president J P Nadda's motorcade on December 10, Shah said his party can't be intimidated. "More than 300 of our party workers have been killed. The more you will show violence, the more we will gather strength to fight," he said.

After getting a warm reception by Shah, Adhikari termed him as his elder brother. He said his relation with Shah began in 2014 when they met in a small party office.

EXPRESS READ

6 Pak nationals booked in drug case

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against six Pakistani nationals and an Indian national in a narcotics case relating to seizure of 237 kg drugs from a Pakistan-based vessel off Gujarat coast in May last year. The chargesheet was filed in a special NIA court at Ahmedabad. All the accused have been arrested.

Rebel leaders upset over Rahul push

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

SONI and Rawat, seen as Gandhi family loyalists, pointed out that appointments had already been made and, hence, there was no need for fresh changes. In September, the CWC was reconstituted and general secretaries were reshuffled. The leaders from the group of 23 also expressed their reservations over Ran-deep Surjewala's statement that 99.99 per cent want Rahul as the party chief. They mentioned the party's loss in the Bihar Assembly elections and the recent bypolls, which were directly handled by Rahul's close aide. Sources said Sonia assured them that elections for the top post would happen soon. The party is likely to get a new chief early next year. While a few leaders said Rahul should lead the party, there was no assurance coming from his side.

ED attaches Farooq's three houses worth ₹12 cr

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday attached National Conference president and chairman of the Gupkar Alliance Farooq Abdullah's properties, including three residential houses worth ₹11.86 crore in connection with the J&K Cricket Association money laundering case.

Abdullah, who is the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, is in touch with his lawyers and mulling legal options to fight the charges and attachment of properties. The attached properties include three residential houses. Abdullah's commercial buildings at the posh Residency Road area in Srinagar and land at four different places were also at-

tached. Before the attachment of his properties, Abdullah was questioned twice by the ED in Srinagar for his alleged involvement in the JKCA money laundering case.

Earlier, the CBI, which probed the JKCA scam, had in 2018 chargesheeted Abdullah for alleged misappropriation of ₹43.69 crore in 2002-11.

His son and former chief minister Omar Abdullah, in a series of tweets, said: "The properties attached are largely ancestral dating from the 1970s with the most recent one built before 2003. There can be no justification for the seizures because they fail the very basic test of having been acquired as the proceeds of the 'crime' being investigated."



Jagdalpur Red Cross unit adjudged top performer

The Indian Red Cross Society, Jagdalpur district in Bastar, was conferred with the award for the best performing unit in Chhattisgarh. The award is in recognition to its multitude of actions related to prevention of the spread of Covid pandemic. Governor Anusuya Uike felicitated the Bastar branch of Red Cross Society that had scaled-up its preparedness to confront challenges of Covid-19 under the chairmanship of Rajat Bansal, the Bastar district collector, and vice-president Alexander M Cheria.



EIAZ KAISER

Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh

ejaz@newindianexpress.com

RAIPUR DIARY

Keeping the Chhattisgarhi pride alive

The two-year rule of the Congress government led by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in Chhattisgarh saw the reinforcing of Chhattisgarhi pride, focusing upon the farmers and stressing on the revival of rural economy through its ambitious flagship programme—Narwa-Garwa-Ghuruwa-Baari. The party returned to power in the state after a gap of 15 years by securing a massive majority in 2018. It also won three Assembly by-polls, taking its tally to 70 in the 90-member House. The government fostered local culture and traditions in an attempt to invoke the regional pride. The state was not much affected amid the economic slowdown during the pandemic and witnessed more revenue collections during the past three months, officials have claimed.

Chiraag project to help farmers earn better

Farmers in the state are going to benefit following the World Bank's approval of the ambitious six-year project 'Chiraag' worth ₹1,036 crore. The key objectives of the project are developing agriculture, improving nutritional value of crops and increasing the income of tribal farmers in Bastar region. The project will be executed in the development blocks of all seven districts of Bastar division besides 1,000 villages in Mungeli district. Advance agricultural practices will be promoted as per the climatic conditions. Income growth and employment generation are also key aims of the project.



Huge rangoli marks two years of Congress govt

A rangoli, believed to be a harbinger of good luck, was created on a mammoth area of 9,100 sq ft at the BTI ground in Raipur to mark the completion of two years of the Congress government in the state. The rangoli, 130-foot-long and 70-foot-wide, was recognised by the Golden Book of World Records in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The rangoli pattern reflected the geographic map of the state and portrayed colours of development achieved under the present regime. The creative rangoli was prepared in 7 hours and used 1,100 kg of 11 different hues. Prosperous farmers, not Maoists, are new identity of the state, the CM said on the occasion.

U.S. CLEARS MODERNA VACCINE AS CALIFORNIA IS OVERWHELMED

17,000 hospitalised in richest state by GDP; that figure may rise to 75,000 within weeks

LOS ANGELES

THE US added a second Covid-19 vaccine to its arsenal Friday, boosting efforts to beat back an outbreak so dire that the nation is regularly recording more than 3,000 coronavirus deaths a day.

Much-needed doses are set to arrive Monday after the Food and Drug Administration authorized an emergency rollout of the vaccine developed by Moderna Inc. and the National Institutes of Health.

The move marks the world's first authorization for Moderna's shots. The vaccine is very similar to one from Pfizer Inc. and Germany's BioNTech that's now being dispensed to millions of health care workers and nursing home residents as the biggest vaccination drive in US history starts to ramp up.

Early results of large, still unfinished studies show both vaccines appear safe and strongly protective although Moderna's is easier to handle since it doesn't need to be stored at ultra-frozen temperatures.

New cases in the US are running at over 216,000 per day on average. Deaths per day have hit all-time highs, eclipsing 3,600 on Wednesday.

California has emerged as one of the most lethal hot spots, with hospitals running out of intensive care beds and ambulances lining up outside emergency rooms in scenes reminiscent of the calamity around New York City last spring. California on Friday reported over 41,000 new cases

and 300 more deaths. As of Friday, nearly 17,000 people were hospitalized with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infections — more than double the previous peak reached in July — and a state model that uses current data to forecast future trends shows the number could reach an unfathomable 75,000 by mid-January.

More than 3,500 confirmed or suspected Covid-19 patients were in intensive care units.

Some areas of California are "just right at that cusp of getting overrun," Dr. Anthony

Fauci, the country's top infectious-disease expert, said during an event organized by the California State University system.

Corona Regional Medical Center southeast of Los Angeles has converted an old emergency room to help handle nearly double the usual number of ICU patients. It's using space in two disaster tents to triage ER patients because the emergency room is filled with patients who need to be hospitalized.

Ambulances can sit for two hours unless they are bringing in patients with critical, life-or-death emergencies.

"There's no room at the inn, so to speak," hospital chief executive Mark Uffer said. "Literally every nook and cranny of the hospital is being used."

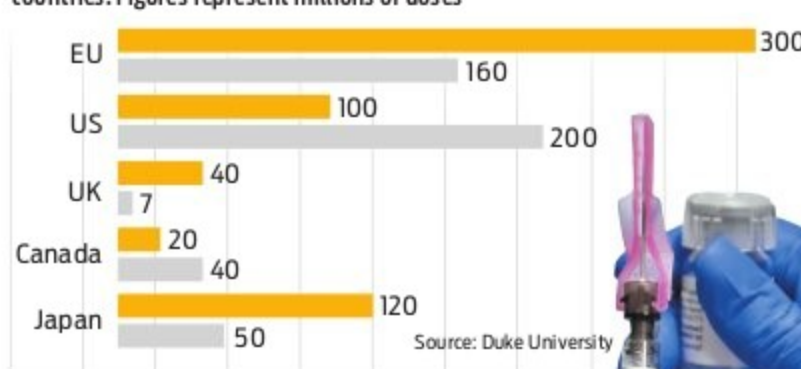
It's a scene playing out across California. According to state data Friday, all of Southern California and the 12-county San Joaquin Valley to the north had exhausted their regular intensive care unit capacity.

Frankly if we don't succeed in getting 80% or so of Americans immunised against Covid-19 by the middle of 2021, we have the risk that this epidemic could go on and on and on

NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins

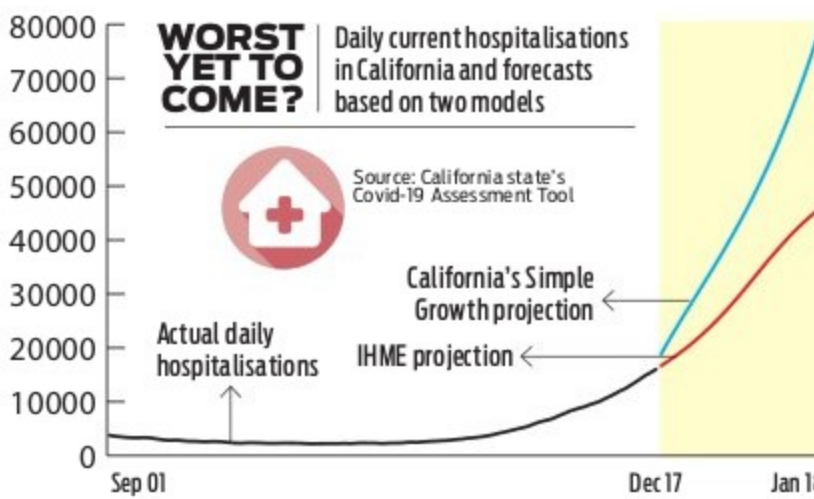
WHO GETS HOW MUCH

Global commitments of two vaccine candidates for select countries. Figures represent millions of doses



-20° CELSIUS

Moderna's shots must be kept in long storage at this temperature, unlike Pfizer's, which must be at -90°



A patient uses his mobile phone while receiving oxygen on a stretcher, while waiting for his room at a hospital in Los Angeles | AP

Pompeo pins blame on Russia for cyberattacks, Don says it's China

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump Saturday downplayed a massive cyberattack on US government agencies, declaring it "under control" and undercutting the assessment by his own administration that Russia was to blame.

"I have been fully briefed and everything is well under control," Trump tweeted in his first public comments on the hack, adding that "Russia Russia Russia is the priority chant when anything happens" and suggesting without offering evidence that China "may" also be involved.

"There could also have been



US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

a hit on our ridiculous voting machines during the election, which is now obvious that I won big, making it an even more corrupted embarrassment for the USA," he added, in his latest baseless allegation of mass fraud in the November 3 vote, which was won

by Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump's response came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in an interview that the attack — which could take months to unravel — was "pretty clearly" Russia's work. "There was a significant effort to use a piece of third-party software to essentially embed code inside of US government systems," Pompeo said. He was referring to widely used security software from Texas firm SolarWinds.

"This was a very significant effort," he added, "and I think it's the case that now we can say pretty clearly that it was the Russians that engaged in this activity."

US banks are solid, can issue buybacks: Fed

WASHINGTON

THE Federal Reserve said Friday that the 33 largest US banks are in strong shape despite the pandemic's economic shock.

The banks have ample capital cushions girding them against unexpected losses and that will also enable them to keep lending even under the most severe strains, the central bank said.

The Fed disclosed the results from a special second round of "stress tests" that it added this year because of damage to the economy from the virus outbreak.

Nine months after the pandemic paralyzed the economy, a resurgence of coronavirus cases threatens its recovery just as the first vaccines are starting to be administered around the country.

The tests showed that all 33 banks remain above their minimum requirements for capital — money they don't have to pay back to creditors or depositors — to protect against risk, the Fed said. Still, the regulators decided to maintain restrictions on banks paying out dividends through March. Buybacks of company stock, however, will be permitted again, with some restrictions.

US Congress averts govt shutdown

Congress passed a two-day stopgap spending bill Friday night, averting a partial government shutdown and buying yet more time for frustratingly slow endgame negotiations on an almost \$1 trillion Covid-19 relief package. The virus aid talks remained on track, both sides said, but closing out final disagreements was proving difficult.



bank has a right to exercise its commercial wisdom to decide what it wants to do with its security," noted barrister Marcia

Shekardemian, arguing on behalf of SBI and others.

She cross-examined Retd Justice Deepak Verma, who deposed via video link from India on behalf of Mallya to establish that the banks cannot give up their security on the Indian assets and then pursue a bankruptcy order under English law because public money and public interest is involved in the case in India.

Retd Justice Gopala Gowda argued the reverse in his cross-examination by

Mallya's barrister Philip Marshall, saying the banks had a right to relinquish their security in pursuit of unpaid dues.

The exchange between the lawyers got heated at several points during the virtual hearing, also being followed by Mallya, with Judge Briggs stepping in to urge a focussed Q&A approach. However, the depositions left no time for closing submissions in the case, which has now been adjourned to a yet-to-be-agreed date in the New Year.

EXPRESS READ

Fishing spat threatens deal as Brexit talks grind on

EU and UK negotiators pressed on with talks on Saturday with no sign of them breaking an impasse over post-Brexit fishing rights in time to save a trade deal. Fishing is now the main obstacle to any pact that could be in place on January 1 to prevent an economic jolt on both sides of the Channel as Britain leaves the single market. "It remains very blocked," one European Union diplomat told AFP. Another said Brussels had made Britain its last offer on fishing access and it was down now to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to decide whether he wants a deal.

JOHANNESBURG

A severe variant of the coronavirus has been detected in South Africa which could explain the rapid spread of a second wave that affects younger people, the health minister said Friday.

Known as the 501.V2 Variant, it was identified by South African researchers and details have been sent to the World Health Organization, Zwelini Mkhize said in a statement.

A team led by the Kwazulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP), has sequenced hun-



dreds of virus samples since the pandemic began, and "noticed that a particular variant has increasingly dominated the findings of the samples collected in the past two months," he added. South African doctors have remarked that more patients

are younger; and do not always have other conditions that amplify the virus' effect, but are nonetheless suffering from more severe forms of Covid-19. That "strongly suggests that the current second wave we are experiencing is being driven by this new variant," Mkhize concluded.

The research team, led by

LOCKDOWN

Christmas cancelled for one-third of England: PM

LONDON

BRITISH PM Boris Johnson says Christmas gatherings can't go ahead and non-essential shops must close in London and much of southern England, as he imposed a new, higher level of coronavirus restrictions on the region to curb rapidly spreading infections.

Johnson said Saturday that the capital and other areas in southern England currently under Tier 3, the highest level of coronavirus restrictions, will move to an even stricter new Tier 4 that requires non-essential shops, hairdressers and indoor leisure venues to close after the end of business hours Saturday.

Johnson also said that a planned five-day easing of socializing rules that would allow up to three households to meet in "Christmas bubbles" will be canceled for Tier 4 areas. No mixing of households will be allowed except for under very limited conditions outside in public places.

He said that in the rest of England, people will be allowed to meet in Christmas bubbles for just one day instead of from Dec 23 to Dec 27, as originally planned. AP

Severe virus variant found in S Africa

1 in 5 prisoners

in the United States has tested positive for the coronavirus, a rate more than four times as high as the general population. In some states, more than half of prisoners have been infected, according to data collected by The Associated Press and The Marshall Project. As the pandemic enters its 10th month — and as the first Americans begin to receive a long-awaited COVID-19 vaccine — at least 275,000 prisoners have been infected, more than 1,700 have died and the spread of the virus behind bars shows no sign of slowing. New cases in prisons this week reached their highest level since testing began in the spring

Banks pursue UK bankruptcy order against Vijay Mallya

LONDON

A consortium of Indian banks led by the State Bank of India returned to the High Court in London for a bankruptcy application hearing against liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, as they pursue the recovery of debt from loans paid out to his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

At a virtual hearing before Chief Insolvency and Companies Court Judge Michael Briggs on Friday, both sides deposed retired Indian SC jus-

tices as expert witnesses on Indian law in support of their arguments for and against a bankruptcy order against Mallya.

While the banks argued a right to waive their security over the Indian assets involved in the case in order to recover their debt in the UK, lawyers for the 65-year-old businessman argued that the funds in question involved public money held by state-owned banks in India which precluded them from such a security waiver.

"As a commercial entity, a

PUDUCHERRY SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
No.2, Old Court Building, Bussy Street, Puducherry.
Email : pondysmartcity@gmail.com, Ph.No. 0413-2224431
No.1005/PSCDL/Housing/2020/964 Puducherry, dt. 19.12.2020

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDER

On behalf of the Puducherry Smart City Development Limited, e-tenders are invited for the following works from the eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (in ₹)
1	Construction of 220 dwelling units for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) consisting of 6 blocks (Ground + 4 floors) at Chinnayapuram, Puducherry. (II - Call)	₹ 15,80,35,708/-
2	Providing and Fixing of Granite Stone Benches at Beach Promenade in Puducherry	₹ 51,40,122/-
3	Marking Cycle Track on existing carriage way - (Phase - I) under Smart City Mission	₹ 50,88,401/-

For further details please refer to the website <https://pudutenders.gov.in>.
<https://pondicherry.smartcity.in>. The date of e-tender opening on 06.01.2021 at 11.00 AM

No. 336/DIP/AD/Press/2020-21 Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, PSCDL

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD.,
PUDUKKOTTAI ROAD, KOTTAPATTU, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 023.
TENDER NOTICE FOR THERMACOL INSULATED AND REFRIGERATED VEHICLE MODEL (Above 2008)
TENDER PERIOD - 01.04.2021 TO 31.03.2023
R.C.No. 19412/MKG/2020-2021 Tender Date : 28.01.2021
Invites Sealed tender for the period 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2023 for vehicles (Thermo col Insulated vehicle) for Milk Distribution and collection of empty tubs 43 Routes, for Products Purchase (Thermo col Insulated vehicle 1 Route) and Product Distribution (2 Routes) for Ice Cream Distribution (Refrigerated Vehicle 1 Route) and T-Board Taxi 3 Routes for Marketing section sales promotion activities. Totally 51 routes by 2 cover system. The cost of tender form is Rs. 300/- (Rs. 100/- extra if required by post). Tender forms can also be Download from www.tenders.tn.gov.in on free of cost the EMD is Rs. 5,000/-. The tender forms will be issued from 23.12.2020 to 27.01.2021 from 10.00 AM - 04.00 pm (Office working days only). The EMD must be paid only as DD Payable at Trichy. Tender Pre Bid meeting conduct on 05.01.2021 - at 11.00 AM at our Union office. Filled Tender forms should be submitted on or before 28.01.2021, 01.30 PM in the Tender Box and can also apply through www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Website. The opening of tender forms will be at 02.30 PM on 28.01.2021. All details are enclosed with the tender form.

DIPR/4740/TENDER/2020 DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER / GENERAL MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION BALASORE
Tel: 06782-262249, Fax: 262931, email: ee.rwsbs@nic.in, ee.rwsbs@gmail.com.
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering
Identification No.18 Dt.14-12-2020

0-730

- Nos. of Work : 18 Nos RPWS schemes in Balasore district
- Estimated cost : Rs. 12.97 Lakhs to Rs. 102.19 lakhs
- Period of completion : 180 days to 330 days
- Availability of bid document in Portal : Dt. 21-12-2020 at 10.00 hours to 30-12-2020 up to 17.00 hours through online.
- Seeking of Clarification : Dt. 21-12-2020 at 10.00 hours to Dt. 28-12-2020 up to 15.00 hours
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 05-01-2021 at 11.00 hours in the O/O EE, RWS&S Division, Balasore.
- Name and address of the : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore

Officer Inviting Tender

Bid Cost & Bid Security will be receipt through electronic payment by NEFT / RTGS.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE

OIPR 25013/11/0008/2021

Reforms have changed investors' perceptions: PM

Says scrapping of obsolete laws, other reforms have led to the shift

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the reforms done by the government over the past six years—from taxation to labour—have changed the world's perception about India. They have gone from 'why India' to 'why not India', he said, holding up the foreign investment seen during the pandemic as a testimony.

"There was a situation in the past when investors would question 'why India' (for investing in the country). With reforms (of past six years) and their effects, this proposition has changed to 'why not India'," Modi said, speaking at ASSOCHAM's Foundation Week.

He cited the scrapping of 1,500 old and obsolete laws and framing new ones in tune with



the changing investment order as an example of his government's outlook. Modi also said that the new agriculture reforms have started benefiting farmers.

The government's main focus is on local manufacturing and production-linked incentives have been implemented to boost domestic capabilities, he said pointing out the move towards a self-reliant India. "Today when we are on mission

mode to make local-global, we have to react fast to geopolitical developments. A mechanism has to be developed to see how India can meet any sudden spurt in demand in the global supply chain," the Prime Minister said, adding that there was a need for better coordination between the Ministries of External Affairs, Commerce and Trade, and industry associations.

Modi went on to say that investment in research and development (R&D) must be increased, and that the private sector need to increase its investment here. "There is a great need to increase investment in R&D. In the US, 70 per cent of investments in R&D is done by the private sector, in India the same is done by the public sector," he said.

RBI free to sanitise forex flows despite US ire

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY @ New Delhi

DESPITE the US Treasury Department tagging India on the watchlist of nations it monitors for currency manipulation, the Indian government wants the RBI to feel free to buy more hard currency, if it feels the need to, in order to sanitise forex inflows.

The RBI and finance ministry have noted in their interactions that excess global liquidity would continue to flow into India, just like it had in financial year 2008-09 after the stimulus injection measures taken by western nations in the wake of the Wall Street crisis.

"To stop that from raising inflation to alarming levels here, we will need to buy dollars. We cannot stop doing that just because the US Treasury feels it may keep our currency value slightly depressed," said a top finance ministry official.

India has breached two of three benchmarks used by the US Treasury to measure whether a nation was manipulating currency values—it had a bilateral surplus with the US for the last quarter of more than \$20 billion, likely to remain since India has historically had a trade surplus with America, and it had made net purchases of foreign currency worth 2 per

cent of its GDP.

However, RBI officials said that the central bank may not "use just dollar-buying through State Bank of India" to manage the situation. "We will also continue to mop up excess foreign capital inflows through reverse repo operations and other tools at our disposal," said one official.

India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$578.568 billion as of December 11, an increase of over \$101 billion since March this year. This is only expected to rise further as more flows from the \$11 trillion liquidity injection initiated by the G20 countries starts moving towards emerging markets which offer higher return on investments.

Ashima Goyal, member of the Reserve Bank's monetary policy committee, said at the MPC meeting earlier this week that unless checked, forex inflows could lead to overvaluation of the rupee which could "hurt exports, raise country risk, and lead to a sharp depreciation later."

Both the central bank and North Bloc believe that prolonged inflows can lead to overvaluation if not sanitised with "intervention". Surges of foreign capital flows and then a sudden stop or outflow can be far more disastrous for the Indian rupee, they feel.

EXPRESS READ

IDBI Bank raises ₹1,435 cr from 44 investors via QIPs

New Delhi: IDBI Bank has raised ₹1,435 crore through an issue of equity shares to 44 qualified institutional investors, according to a regulatory filing. The bank had targeted to raise ₹2,000 crore (base size ₹1,000 crore and green-shoe option of ₹1,000 crore) through the QIP issue at a floor price of ₹40.63 apiece. The QIP committee of the board of directors at its meeting held on December 19, 2020 approved the issue and allotment of 3,71,808,177 equity shares to 44 eligible qualified institutional buyers at the issue price of ₹38.60 per share, IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

GURBIR SINGH

ONE of the big gripes of the farmers agitation against the new agricultural laws is the way they were passed. Armed with a 303-strong brute majority in the Lok Sabha, not even a pretense of discussion was offered before the 3 bills became laws in September, this year.

There was no attempt to engage with farmers organizations. In the Rajya Sabha, where the Modi government was not sure of a majority, the bills were passed in September with a voice vote ignoring demands by the Opposition for a division. Again demands for referring the bills to a Joint Select committee for legislative scrutiny were brushed aside. The Supreme Court now setting up a negotiation committee is a belated acknowledgment that the democratic process had been fractured.

Finally, federalism, or 'quasi' federalism as we chose to call it - a cornerstone of our polity - lay in tatters as the states were not consulted. Agriculture is one of the 66 subjects on the States' list in our constitutional division of power which distributes areas of control between the Union, states and a concurrent list overlapping both the central and state governments. Aren't these obvious signs of India moving to a unitary form of government?

Akhand Bharat

These are not random majoritarian tendencies but the careful unfolding of an ideological plan for 'Akhand Bharat'. A vision of 'One Nation, One People'. The concept



Police use water cannons on protestors opposing the farm bills | SHEKHAR YADAV

of 'Greater India' or 'Akhand Bharat' was first coined by the Hindu ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in 1923. It broadly sought the cultural unification of all areas of Hindu cultural influence from Nepal to Burma, and Afghanistan in the North-West. The concept was later adopted by the RSS with a manifesto to unite the large Indian subcontinent including modern day Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The domestic flip side of 'Akhand Bharat' is that 'Bharat mata' is a single, unitary Hindu entity; and that divisions along state lines such as Bengal, Assam, Kannada or Telugu take away from the larger vision of a single, united Hindu nation. This flies in the face of 'federalism' which sees India as a confluence of dozens of nationalities and regions with their own language and culture, and with their own autonomous polity.

The Constitution of India's Article 1 deliberately defined India as a 'Union of states' rather than a 'federation' - an acknowledgement we are more 'unitary' than 'federal'; but with 'Akhand Bharat'

playing out, the centripetal tendencies towards a powerful and centralized government has strengthened. As the BJP moves into its second innings we are seeing increasing calls of One Nation, One Religion; One Nation, One language, One Nation, One market, and One nation, one ration card. The ground rules are being rewritten, and they fly in the face of India's rich diversity.

The biggest blow to federalism was the rolling back of Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. The new dispensation removed its special status of running the state with its own Constitution, its own rules on property ownership and defining who are its 'permanent residents', etc. Its autonomy, guaranteed under the constitution was taken away, again without consultation of the state legislature. Jammu & Kashmir - the only Muslim majority state in the country - was reduced from the status of a 'state' to two Union territories.

States financially choked

In economic relations, the states are being slowly choked

Exporters seek sector development fund

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EXPORTERS' body Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) on Saturday met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and pitched for a host of measures to boost outbound shipments.

These include the setting up of a development fund; bringing in a double tax deduction scheme; extending tax deductions on product development; providing fiscal support to attract private investment in the shipping industry in order to

keep freight rates under check; measures for export promotion amid rising protectionist tendencies; rolling out the proposed Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS); and allocating larger funds to provide aid trade finance.

"Rising NPAs have caused decline in export credit by banks to exporters resulting in liquidity problems. To provide necessary comfort to bankers, the government may roll out the NIRVIK Scheme (also called ECIS) which was announced in September 2019

but remains non-operational so far," said FIEO President Sharad Kumar Saraf.

Under the proposed scheme, interest rates will likely fall to 3.15 per cent for export credit in dollar terms and 7.35 per cent in rupee, according to the proposal moved to the Cabinet. "If India's GDP has to grow at 8 per cent, exports should grow at 15 per cent. The Department of Commerce should be given enough budget allocation to support exports, including agri exports," the association said.

WEAK DEMAND

Honda stops production at Greater Noida plant

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

JAPANESE carmaker Honda Cars (HCL) has stopped production at its manufacturing facility in Greater Noida. According to people familiar with the development, the carmaker was forced to take the decision due to the poor market situation. Honda, however, will continue operations at its Tapukara (Rajasthan) plant.

The Greater Noida facility was HCL's first plant in India, beginning operations in 1997 with an initial capacity of 30,000 units per year; later increased to 100,000 units. Honda's Alwar plant, meanwhile, has an annual capacity of 180,000 units.

Honda employed about 2,000 workers in the Great Noida facility. It is learnt that most of its workforce here have opted for a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) initiated earlier this year. The facility

had been used to produce popular models such as the City, CR-V, and the Civic.

Industry sources say, however, that the plant will continue to house Honda's corporate head office, spare parts division, and research and development (R&D) Centre, among other functions. Honda did not respond to queries with an official statement.

The plant closure comes at a time when passenger vehicle manufacturers have raised concerns regarding future prospects in the market, even though reported healthy festive season sales.

But from January 2021, most carmakers are hiking prices to offset input cost increases and industry analysts say this will likely act as a drag on demand. Fitch Ratings on Thursday had said that the automakers' plans to pass on higher commodity prices to customers will "dim the prospects for a demand recovery after December".

Zomato pips Swiggy, becomes India's most valued food delivery firm

BISMAL MALIK @ Bengaluru

ZOMATO is now India's most valued food delivery start-up, hitting a valuation of \$3.9 billion and surpassing rival Swiggy's \$3.6 billion.

Before Friday, the Hurun India Unicorn Index 2020 had pegged both Swiggy's and Zomato's valuations at \$3.6 bil-

lion. Investors have been betting on food delivery majors despite the constraints of the pandemic and Swiggy had raised \$156 million in a funding round earlier this year, led by South African internet giant Naspers and seeing participation from others including China's Tencent. Zomato's attempts to raise around \$150

million from China's Ant Financial had hit a snag after India-China tensions flared.

However, its Friday fundraising beats Swiggy's handily. The company announced that it has closed a \$660 million funding round at a \$3.9 billion valuation, making it the most valued food delivery start-up in the country. It also said it has eyes

on a possible IPO by June.

According to Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal, Zomato's focus next financial year will be on food delivery unit economics, and moving away from the loss model. The firm has already begun focusing on cutting down discounts and delivery cost per order.

The list of investors partici-

pating in the round include Tiger Global, Kora, Luxor, Fidelity (FMR), D1 Capital, Baillie Gifford, Mirae, and Steadview, Goyal said. The segment is headed for a major recovery, Goyal noted, with December registering the highest ever Gross Merchandise Value, almost 25 per cent higher than the previous peak in February.



Muthoot Mini Open its Zonal Offices at Bengaluru & Kanyakumari

Muthoot Mini Financiers Ltd, one of the largest Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) in India, digitally inaugurated their two

new zonal offices, one at Jalahalli, Bengaluru, and another in Kanyakumari, as part of its expansion and restructuring plans. The company aims for a business growth of ₹1,000 crore in this financial year through this strategy. As part of its revamp, the company had already announced that it will launch self-governing Zonal Offices managed by Zonal Managers.

Bank of Baroda holds Credit on Wheels loan mela

Credit of Wheels, a loan mela, was organized by the Bank of Baroda's, Chennai Metro Region at Alwarpet, Chennai on December 16 and 17 under the leadership of Regional Head Ramanuj Sharma. The mela was focused mainly on catering to the needs of clients in the MSME, Retail, and Agriculture segments. 52 branches of Chennai Metro Region participated and around 130 loans were issued principal sanction on the spot aggregating to ₹185.00 crore.



Business & Beyond

VinCense wins AABF award 2020 for Covid-19 risk mitigation

MedioTek Health Systems has released a product called VinCense which it claims is the only device in its class to measure respiratory rate—which is a leading indicator for detecting Covid-19. The device captures four parameters with clinical grade accuracy comparable to ICU monitors which captures BP and ECG in addition at a relatively low cost, the company said. It is also already deployed in 200 sites and can be used post COVID-19 for NCD screening and management.



Steel Minister emphasizes role of SAIL steel plants in Mission Purvodaya

Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan visited SAIL's IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) and Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), located in Bumpur and Durgapur at West Bengal, on December 18. During the visit, Pradhan reviewed the performance of both plants and went on to emphasize the role of SAIL plants in the eastern region for Mission Purvodaya. "Both IISCO and Durgapur steel plants of SAIL have an important role to play in the development of the eastern region as well as the nation. They are important players not only for the region but for the nation," he said.



Three day CBRN training concludes with mock drill

The concluding ceremony of the three-day basic training in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Emergency Management conducted by NDMA at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata was held on December 17. The closing ceremony began with handing over mementos and certificates and a total of 38 members from various services and other stakeholders participated.

IIT Madras partners with INFAC PRO to offer new training courses in Banking & Finance

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has partnered with INFAC Pro Trainers (OPC) Pvt. Ltd (www.infactpro.com), to offer training in high growth sectors. Programme areas include banking and finance, digital banking, mutual funds, securities operations, risk management, and equity derivatives. An official statement said that all are certified courses and will be offered online by the Digital Skills Academy (DSA) at IIT Madras. Course details are listed in the website https://skillsacademy.

Indian Bank starts fifth batch of 'MSME Prerana'

In order to encourage and provide non-financial handholding support to MSME entrepreneurs affected by the economic fallout of the pandemic, Indian Bank said it has conducted a series of online business mentoring programs called 'MSME Prerana' focused on empowering MSME entrepreneurs. The initiative was initially launched by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman on October 6, 2020 to help entrepreneurs equip themselves in various skill sets.

EXPRESS READ

Gold for Panghal, Satish bags silver

COLOGNE: World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) notched up a gold medal without having to fight his final bout, while veteran Satish Kumar (+91kg) settled for silver after an injury prevented him from competing in his summit clash at the Cologne World Cup on Saturday. Panghal was given a walkover by Germany's Argishti Terteryan. Satish had to withdraw against Germany's Nelvie Tiafack owing to an injury.

Vijay pulls out of Mushtaq Ali T20s

CHENNAI: Murali Vijay has opted out of the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament owing to personal reasons. Medium-pacer K Vignesh, who tested positive for coronavirus, was replaced in Tamil Nadu's probables list by RS Jaganath Srinivas, the TNCA stated. L Suryaprakash will come in place of the former India opener. TN play their group matches in Kolkata from January 10 onwards.

Three-way battle on cards in Round 2 of INRC

ITANAGAR: A battle royale between the Indian drivers is on the anvil as the Rally of Arunachal, Round 2 of the Champions Yacht Club FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship 2020, set to begin here. Current leader of the INRC overall category Gaurav Gill will be the driver to watch out for as he will hope to continue his stupendous run and aim for an encore. The JK Tyre driver along with co-driver Musa Sherif.

Chennaiyin return to winning ways vs Goa

CHENNAI: Chennaiyin, who have been struggling for goals all season, finally found some joy in front of goal to beat Goa 2-1 in their ISL encounter at the Fataora Stadium on Saturday. Their got their noses in front through Rafael Crivellaro in the 5th minute but Goa hit back through Jorge Mendoza four minutes later. However, Rahim Ali scored the winner eight minutes into the second half. The win, however, kept them in eighth on the table.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool go six points clear after 7-0 win over Palace

AFP @ London

LIVERPOOL ended a three-month wait for an away win in the Premier League in comprehensive fashion with a 7-0 thrashing of Crystal Palace on Saturday to move six points clear at the top of the table.

In an ominous sign for the challengers hoping to dethrone Jurgen Klopp's men as English champions, the Reds built on the momentum of a last-minute winner that beat second-placed Tottenham in midweek.

Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah scored twice at Selhurst Park, while Takumi Minamino, Sadio Mane and Jordan Henderson also netted.

Klopp has repeatedly bemoaned having to play Saturday lunchtime kick-offs after Wednesday night games, but his side suffered no hangover from their exertions against Spurs. Salah was given a rare rest from the start, but Minamino took just three minutes to open the scoring.

Palace had chances to get back as Fabinho's intervention just took Wilfried Zaha's cross away from Jordan Ayew. At the other end, the visitors were ruthless as scored with an excellent turn and low finish from Firmino's pass. A counter-attack made it three before the break as this time Firmino latched onto Andy Robertson's cross before flicking the ball beyond Vicente Guaita.

Fellow big-hitters, Man City, also won. In a tricky fixture at Southampton, the former champions jumped into fifth place after a Raheem Sterling goal in the first half. Saints did have chances but failed to take them.

Barcelona held

Barcelona were held 2-2 by Valencia in a La Liga match. Trailing by a goal scored by Mouctar Diakhaby, Barca went 2-1 up thanks to Leo Messi and Ronald Araujo. Maximiliano Gomez equalised for Valencia. The game became chaotic in the end but both sides failed to find a winner in the dying moments.



It was a day to forget for India captain Virat Kohli, who lost a Test match for the first time after winning the toss as Australia took a 1-0 lead in Border-Gavaskar Trophy | AFP

SHATTER DAY

Pride pricked, hearts broken & Test lost in devastating manner

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

THIS was not what India would have remotely thought of when they woke up on Saturday. There was optimism all around. This was supposed to be the day to shut the door on any sort of an Australian comeback and take control of a Test they looked like winning. Instead, under a clear sky, India ended up with their lowest-ever Test total of 36, as Australia took a 1-0 lead.

Over the first two days, Virat Kohli & Co had built hope — through gritty batting and some exceptional bowling — that they began to dream. Test wins in Australia don't come easy. India had won only seven out of 48 Tests Down Under before. These things tend to excite you. A generation waited 21 years to see India win a Test in Australia. A good batting performance was all that they needed to notch up an eighth.

But Test cricket is cruel. It can bring life into contests you thought were dead. It gives you moments when you least expect them. For Indians, it came in the form of a horror film, or the mother of all anti-climaxes. In 32 minutes, a high-octane bowling performance from Pat Cummins (4-21) and Josh

SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings: 244
Australia 1st innings: 191
India 2nd innings: (overnight 9/1):
Agarwal c Paine, b Hazlewood 9,
Bumrah c & b Cummins 2, Pujara c
Paine b Cummins 0, Kohli c Green b
Cummins 4, Rahane c Paine h
Hazlewood 0, Vihari c Paine b
Hazlewood 8, Saha c Labuschagne b
Hazlewood 4, Ashwin c Paine b
Hazlewood 0, Umesh (not out) 4,
Shami retd hurt 1. **Total** (all out, 21.2
overs) **36**. **Bowling:** Starc 6-3-7-0,
Cummins 10.2-4-21-4, Hazlewood 5-3-
8-5.

Australia 2nd innings: Wade run
out 33, Burns not out 51, Labuschagne c
Agarwal b Ashwin 6, Smith not out 1.
Extras (lb 1, nb 1) **2**. **Total** (2 wks, 21
overs) **93**. **Fall of wickets:** 1-70, 2-82.
Bowling: Umesh 8-49-0, Bumrah 7-1-
27-0, Ashwin 6-16-1.

Hazlewood (5-8) burnt all the hopes India had. Two world-class pacers delivered nine wicket-taking deliveries in a space of 45 minutes. Usually, it takes nearly 100 overs to bowl that many perfect balls. 9-1 overnight became 15-2 following the dismissal of night-watchman Jasprit Bumrah. Before you could blink, it became 15-5, with Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal and Ajinkya Rahane dismissed in a space of 10 balls. Before one

could finish rubbing eyes in disbelief, Kohli perished, leaving India at 19-6. Hanuma Vihari and Wriddhiman Saha ensured that New Zealand's all-time Test low score of 26 was passed, but India ended up posting their lowest, after No 11 Md Shami retired hurt.

It was not as if the batsmen were guilty of throwing away their wickets. It was relentless probing by Cummins and Hazlewood, who showed why the corridor of uncertainty remains a death trap. Pujara, Agarwal, Rahane all played the ball as close to the body as possible, yet it found the edge. Could they have done anything different? No. In fact, not many in would have answers to those. Ask Cummins and Hazlewood to do this again, those deliveries may not find the edge. "It was a strange one. The ball didn't do much. I think we didn't have enough intent to go out there and take the game forward and everything found the edge. Everything happened so quickly that no one could make any sense of it and it was disappointing because the position we were in, from there to have an hour-and-a-half like that was very, very surprising and disappointing," said Kohli.

HOW THEY GOT OUT

SHAW 4 (4)
Bowled through the gate late on Friday. The ball came in through the angle and the opener's suspect defence did him in.
7/1, 3.1 ovs

BUMRAH 2 (17)
A checked defence from the nightwatchman off another delivery that came in with the angle. The ball came back at friendly height for the bowler to complete the catch.
15/2, 7.6 ovs

PUJARA 0 (8)
Came in with the angle before straightening a touch. Made the No 3 play, as he couldn't afford to leave it. A hint of movement took the edge and Paine did the rest.
15/3, 11.2 ovs

AGARWAL 9 (40)
Carbon copy of the Pujara dismissal, with extra bounce. Came in off the angle before straightening a touch. Paine completed the formalities.
15/4, 12.1 ovs

RAHANE 0 (4)
Fuller delivery which again straightened a touch. Rahane had to play at it but pushed at the ball a touch. Keeps Paine busy.
15/5, 12.5 ovs

KOHLI 4 (8)
Looking to drive a wideish ball through covers but a thick outside edge flew to gully where Green took a tumbling catch. Could have left it, but the skipper was perhaps trying to counter.
19/6, 13.4 ovs

SAHA 4 (15)
Not the greatest of deliveries. Intent from the keeper was good but execution was not. Angled into the pads and the flick went straight to mid-wicket.
26/7, 18.4 ovs

ASHWIN 0 (1)
Pitched in the corridor, like so many, and moved a fraction away. The batsman's defensive prod found the edge which was accepted by Paine.
26/8, 18.5 ovs

VIHARI 8 (22)
Symbolic that the last wicket fell in this manner. Pitches around off before straightening, forcing the batsman to play. Paine is on hand again.
31/9, 20.1 ovs

India's lowest totals

Score	Opposition	Year
36	Australia	2020
42	England	1974
58	Australia	1947
58	England	1952
66	South Africa	1996

Lowest totals of all time

Score	Team	Year
26	NZ vs Eng	1955
30	SA vs Eng	1896
30	SA vs Eng	1924
35	SA vs Eng	1899
36	SA vs Aus	1932
36	Aus vs Eng	1902
36	Ind vs Aus	2020
38	Ire vs Eng	2019
42	NZ vs Aus	1946
42	Aus vs Eng	1888
42	Ind vs Eng	1974



Josh Hazlewood took 5-8 | AFP

Probably stunned... The mood didn't change too much throughout to be fair. I can probably speak for the bowling group in saying that we thrive on those situations when we're a little bit behind.

Josh Hazlewood

"They were bowling similar lengths in the first innings as well. We were just better at playing those and having a plan around it on how we wanted to go about things. A bit of lead can always be tricky because as a batting unit you can go into a head space where you feel we are just 50 or 60 ahead and you don't want to lose early wickets and allow the opposition back into the game. So you always have to be positive. Hence I said we lacked intent because we should have just seen where the game has to go rather than where it has come to and move the game forward, which we were not able to do. I think the way we batted allowed them to look more potent than they were in the morning to be honest. I can tell you, whenever I have batted well in these situations my plan has been to go and get a quick 30-40 runs and take the game forward. This is very significant."

They were bowling similar lengths in the first innings as well. We were just better at playing those and having a plan around it. I think the way we batted allowed them to look more potent than they were.

Virat Kohli, India captain

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The tender forms (non-transferable) can be obtained from the Manager of the Branch at: No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560001 on payment of Rs.25/- payable through Demand Draft favouring EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS (MADURAI) PRIVATE LTD. or by Cash to be paid at Cash Counter at Branch Offices.

Last date for receipt of sealed tender in our office is 31.12.2020 till 5.30 p.m. The tenders received after the due date and time will not be entertained.

Operations, Commercial Express Publications (Madurai) Private Ltd., Express Gardens, 29, II Main Road, Industrial Estate, Ambattur, Chennai-600058. Phone: 2345 7601, Fax: 2345 7619/20 Date: 20.12.2020

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shantha Veeraiyah .V, S/o. D. Veeranna, aged about 49 years, R/at No. 98, 3rd Cross, Amco Layout, Kodigehalli, Sahakara Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560092 have changed my name to SHANTHA KUMAR .V vide Affidavit dated 16.12.2020, sworn to before Notary D.S. Chandrakanth Bangalore

SALE OF USED ALUMINIUM CTP PLATES, EMPTY INK BARRELS AND EMPTY INK / CHEMICAL PLASTIC CONTAINERS

SEALED tenders are invited in the prescribed form for the purchase of USED ALUMINIUM CTP PLATES, EMPTY INK BARRELS AND EMPTY INK / CHEMICAL PLASTIC CONTAINERS as detailed in the tender form for the period from 01.01.2021 to 31.03.2021.

The tender forms (non-transferable) can be obtained from the Centre Manager of the Branch at: NO.1, QUEEN'S ROAD, BENGALURU-560001 on payment of Rs.25/- payable through Demand Draft favouring EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS (MADURAI) PRIVATE LTD., or by Cash to be paid at Cash Counter at Branch Offices.

Last date for receipt of sealed tender in our office is 31st December 2020 till 6.00 p.m. The tenders received after the due date and time will not be entertained.

Deputy General Manager (Production) Express Publications (Madurai) Private Ltd., Express Gardens, 29, II Main Road, Industrial Estate, Ambattur, Chennai-600058. Phone: 23457601 Extn. 310, 23457521 (Direct) Chennai Date: 20.12.2020

CHANGE OF NAME

DECLARATION

I, INDU SUBRAMANIAN, aged about 82 years, wife of Col. M.S. Ramasubramanian (Retd.), and permanent resident of No. B-222, Century Park Apts, 48, Richmond Road, Bengaluru-560025, declare that I have been known by two names, 1) INDU SUBRAMANIAN and 2) INDURALA SUBRAMANIAM. All documents pertaining to these names are indeed referring to me. Now I solemnly to an Affidavit dated 09.12.2020, before the Hon'ble XIV Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru, stating that in future I expressly authorize and request all persons, family members, relatives and friends at all times hereafter to identify, designate and address me, as INDU SUBRAMANIAN only. Further declare that I have not changed my signature.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BIDDALA MUNI NANDI, aged about 21 years, W/o Karthik Yadav S.L, residing at #567, 11th Cross, 7th Block Jayanagar West, Bengaluru-560 070, hereby declare that I have changed my name post marriage (30.01.2020) from BIDDALA MUNI NANDI to B NANDINI YADAV. Henceforth I shall use this name for all future purposes and documents, vide Affidavit dated 18.12.2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary HEGDE GANAPATI VENKATARAMAN at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANUSHKA SINGH R/at No. 202, LSR Residency, 3rd main Poopyay Layout, Aswath Nagar, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560094, have Changed my name to ANUSHKA GHOSHAL Vide affidavit dated: 19/12/2020 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANUSHKA GHOSHAL, R/at No. 202, LSR Residency, 3rd main, Poopyay Layout, Aswath Nagar, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560094, have Changed My Son Name From ADITYA SINGH to ADITYA GHOSHAL Vide affidavit dated: 19/12/2020 before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JACINTHA DURAISWAMY W/o Konnumuthu Duraisamy, R/at No.487/3, Annai illam church Lane, Eijipura, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name to JACINTHA DURAISAMY vide affidavit dated: 18/12/2020 Before Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMANULLA BASHA S/o ABDULLA KADVETTI, R/at No.75/2, 8th main, 2nd Cross, Near Masjid-E-Yaseen, R.B.I Colony, Byrasandra 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560011 have changed my name to AMANULLA KADVETTI vide affidavit dated: 19/12/2020 Before Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shaheen Siddiqua Banu, R/at No.6 13th B Main, N S Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka 560076. I have changed my minor child name from 'Syed' to 'Mst. Syeed Syed Asif'. Passport No. N0253355. Vide Affidavit dated 09.12.2020. Sworn before Rajender Kumar Meena, Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, R. CHITRA, Daughter of Ramadoss, resident of No. 172, 19th Main, 6th Cross, TATA Nagar, Sahakaranagar PO, Bangalore - 560 092, do hereby declare that my name has been mentioned as CHITRA (incorrect name) instead of R. CHITRA or CHITRA RAMADOSS in my passport. I hereby declare that all the names pertain to the one and same person R. CHITRA or CHITRA RAMADOSS vide affidavit dated 19.12.2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary K.C. Gowthami, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SEEMA GUPTA, W/o. Sanjay Gupta, residing at No. 205, DSR Daffodil, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103, have changed their Daughter's name from SRIKA GUPTA to SRIKA JINDAL vide affidavit Dated 17/12/2020 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bangalore-11.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HERWIN WILMET D'SOUZA, W/o. Abhilash Mithern Kandoth, R/at. C-402, Sumadhura Lake Breeze Apartments, Thubarahalli, Bangalore-560066, have changed my sons name from Noah Abhilash Kandoth to Noah Dsouza, vide affidavit dated 4.12.2020 sworn before notary M.Narendran Bangalore-560045.

ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ

ಇವುಳ್ಳ, ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಡಿ/ಓ ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ ಎಸ್. ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿ ಮತ್ತು 2 ವರ್ಷ (ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.04.2018), ವಾಸ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳ: ರಂ. 17 ಮತ್ತು 18, 18^{ನೇ} ಮತ್ತು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಬಳಿ ಬಾಡರ್, ಸಾಕಾರವಾಸ್ತು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560039. ಆದ ನಾವು ಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಸರು, UNNATHI. N.S ಎಂಬುದರ ಬದಲಾಗಿ IMPANA. N.S (ಹೆಸರು ಹೆಸರು) ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01-10-2020 ರಂದು ಸಿಬಿಎಂ ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಕೆಎಸ್. ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, B.Ed./L.L.B. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

LOST

It is notified for information of the public that I have lost my SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAMINATION MARKS STATEMENT bearing No 0668379 dtd 29.05.2018 under roll no 4047661 issued by CBSE. Name: MOHAMMED ZAID WANI Hutchins Enclave, No 34, 5th Cross, Hutchins Main Road, Cook Town Bangalore - 560084.

LOST

It is notified for the information that my Original/ Duplicate Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main/Compartment, Secondary School Examination March 2019, Senior Secondary Examination of year 2018-19 and Roll No. 4071829 issued by CBSE has been actually lost/destroyed/duplicated Name of the Candidate: MOHAMMED HARRIS KURNOORU Full Address: No. 25/7, 3rd Cross, 3rd Stage, Kamalya Layout, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore -560095. Tel: 9845033445.

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WHAT IS IT?
Mucormycosis (previously called zygomycosis) is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes. These molds live throughout the environment.

SYMPTOMS
One-sided facial swelling
Headache
Nasal or sinus congestion
Black lesions on the nasal bridge or upper inside of the mouth that quickly become more severe
Fever

HOW CAN ONE PREVENT DISEASE?

Try to avoid areas with a lot of dust like construction or excavation sites. If it can't be avoided, wear an N95 face mask

Avoid direct contact with water-damaged buildings and flood water after hurricanes and natural disasters

Avoid activities that involve close contact to soil or dust, such as yard work or gardening

Wear gloves when handling materials such as soil, moss, or manure

To reduce the chances of developing a skin infection, clean skin injuries well with soap and water

NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED SO FAR

Reports suggest that there are 13 cases in Delhi and around half the patients lost their eyesight as a result. A total of 44 cases (nine of them passed away) have also reportedly emerged in Ahmedabad and Mumbai

HISTORY IN INDIA

A study published in the *Mycoses* in 2014 explains that certain species of fungi like *Apophysomyces elegans* and *Rhizopus homothallicus* were emerging in the Indian subcontinent, leading to an alarming frequency of mucormycosis in the country in the last decade

The study also noted that Indian mucormycosis has certain unique features which is why it's often categorised as rhino-orbital-cerebral mucormycosis (ROCM)

EXFILE HEALTH

After Covid, fungal fear hits India

Mucormycosis, a rare but deadly fungal disease, has been found in patients who are recovering from coronavirus. Cases are found in Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. A look at the disease

HOW IT AFFECTS EYES

It enters through the nose and then spreads to the eyes, paralyses the muscles around the pupils which might lead to blindness. It may also cause meningitis if it spreads to the brain



WHO IS AT RISK?

Mucormycosis mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness. This puts people recovering from Covid-19 or post-Covid issues at high risk. People with diabetes and health problems are also at high risk

Case specific: In Ahmedabad, the majority of patients who have come to the civil hospital with the disease had diabetes and were recovering from coronavirus

RELATION WITH COVID

The major risk factor from Mucormycosis is uncontrolled diabetes mellitus which is also a high-risk factor for Covid-19

CAN THE DEADLY DISEASE BE CURED?

Successful management requires early diagnosis, reversal of underlying risk factors, surgical debridement and prompt administration of active antifungal agents. But mucormycosis is not always amenable to cure

IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

No, Mucormycosis can't spread between people or between people and animals

This is a devastating disease, and the cure is not easy. We need to be cautious. This could be a mild disease but can also take a serious turn. This was there in the absence of Covid-19 as well

Dr VK Paul, NITI Aayog

Oxford vaccine might get approval soon

UK government likely to clear jab, which India has manufactured in large numbers, for rollout in early 2021

HEALTH

LONDON: The Oxford University vaccine against Covid-19 being produced by AstraZeneca is likely to get regulatory approval from the UK's independent regulator by the end of this year for a rollout to begin in early 2021, according to a UK media report.

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which had been formally tasked by the UK government last month with the process of clearance after the jab emerged 'safe and effective' against the novel coronavirus in human trials, is expected to authorise the vaccine by December 28 or 29 after the final data is provided on Monday, 'The Daily Telegraph' quoted senior government sources as indicating.

"Authorisation by the MHRA will also give confidence to countries across the world. India has already manufactured more than 50 million of the AstraZeneca vaccines," the newspaper notes.

In India, the vaccine is be-



ing produced as part of a tie-up with the Serum Institute of India. Health officials in the UK hope that the authorisation of the Oxford jab will prove a 'game-changer', allowing vaccines to be transported and administered far more easily compared to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine which must be stored at cold

temperatures.

The Oxford vaccine can be stored in normal refrigerators but like the Pfizer vaccine, it also requires two doses 'with a three-week gap between the two doses for the Pfizer jabs and a four-week gap for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca, AZD1222, vaccine has taken

longer for regulators to assess because of differences in the efficacy rates found in different groups, ranging from 62 to 90 per cent. However, a study released this week suggests that leaving an adequate gap between doses is the most crucial way to boost efficacy, the newspaper reports.

Although the first batch of four million doses will be delivered from the Netherlands and Germany, the bulk of manufacturing is set to take place in the UK. Pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca has said a further 15 million doses of active ingredients are ready and can be filled into vials in a matter of days, the newspaper report adds.

The full order of 100 million doses, in addition to 40 million doses of the Pfizer jabs being imported from Belgium, is believed to be enough to vaccinate the whole of the UK. The state-funded National Health Service (NHS), which is leading the UK's mass vaccination drive with the Pfizer vaccine, has drawn up plans for 'large scale' vaccination sites, in

football stadiums, racecourses and conference centres to start administering jabs from the first week of January. The programme will also be expanded to high-street pharmacies and further general practitioner (GP) practices. The news of a second vaccine for the UK comes as the US cleared its second vaccine for emergency use against the deadly virus 'the Moderna vaccine' and will begin rolling out thousands of doses soon alongside the Pfizer vaccine.

The UK, meanwhile, has been vaccinating the highest risk categories of the population with the first of two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for over two weeks now, even as millions more across the country entered the toughest Covid-19 lockdown measures from Saturday due to a spike in infection rates. UK PM Boris Johnson called an unscheduled meeting of senior ministers on Friday night to hold talks over a worrying new variant of the virus, which has been spreading rapidly across London.

FACT OF THE MATTER

NASA to fly space capsule



TECH

NASA has decided to fly its Orion spacecraft which is designed to carry humans to deep space without fixing a failed power unit component. During their troubleshooting, engineers evaluated the option to "use as is" with the high-degree of available redundancy or remove and replace the box, NASA said. As a spacecraft designed to carry humans to deep space, Orion is built with significantly more redundancy to protect against failures than a robotic spacecraft, the US space agency said. Orion has a total of eight PDUs, each of which has two cards with two redundant channels on each card.

AI to identify mosquitoes



TECH

Researchers have shown the effectiveness of an artificial intelligence (AI) system — known as a Convolutional Neural Network — to classify mosquito sex, genus, species and strain. Rapid and accurate identification of mosquitoes that transmit human pathogens such as malaria is an essential part of mosquito-borne disease surveillance, the study published in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, reported. Human malaria is an ongoing public health crisis affecting many continents, with the highest numbers of cases and people at risk in Africa.

1,731 grams of moon samples retrieved

SPACE

BEIJING: China's Chang'e-5 probe, which successfully returned to earth this week, has retrieved about 1,731 grams of samples from the moon, the country's space agency said on Saturday. The samples were transferred to the Chinese research teams on Saturday morning.

Scientists will carry out the storage, analysis and research of the country's first samples collected from the extra-terrestrial object, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said. The return capsule of Chang'e-5 probe landed in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in the early hours of Thursday, bringing samples from the moon.

The Chang'e-5 mission marks a successful conclusion of China's current three-step lunar exploration programme of orbiting and landing, and bringing back samples which began in 2004. It was the country's first attempt to bring the moon samples in over 40 years after the US sent astronauts to the moon to collect samples. In the Soviet Union's unmanned lunar sampling mis-



It was China's first attempt to bring moon samples in over 40 years

sions, the spacecraft took off from the moon and returned to Earth directly.

The Chang'e-5 probe, comprising an orbiter, a lander, an ascender and a returner, was launched on November 24, and its lander-ascender combination touched down on the north of the Mons Rümker in Oceanus Procellarum, also known as the Ocean of Storms, on the near side of the moon on December 1.

China has emerged as a major space power with manned missions and landing a rover on the moon. It is building a space station of its own. Chang'e-5, the third Chinese spacecraft to land on the moon, is the latest in a series of ambitious missions for Beijing's space programme.



PLAY PALS

Leopards inside an enclosure at Sarthana Nature Park in Surat on Saturday | PTI

Lab-grown meat makes historic debut

FOOD

SINGAPORE: Lab-grown chicken meat made a historic debut at a Singapore restaurant on Saturday in a culinary first that its creators said could help reduce the environmental damage involved in human food production.

US start-up Eat Just said earlier this month that its product had been approved for sale in

the city-state as an ingredient in chicken nuggets after Singapore became the first country to allow the sale of meat created without slaughtering any animals. Consumption of animals is an environmental threat as cattle produce the potent greenhouse gas methane, while logging to create pastures destroys natural barriers against climate change.

The company on Wednesday

said it had made its first commercial sale of the product to 1880, a restaurant in Singapore's Robertson Quay, a riverside entertainment centre.

The restaurant began serving the cultured meat on Saturday evening, saying its first diners were students aged 14-18 who had been invited to the launch after showing "a commitment to building a better planet".

2 bn vaccine doses secured, says WHO

HEALTH

The World Health Organisation (WHO) program to help get Covid-19 vaccines to all countries in need has access to nearly two billion doses of "promising" vaccine candidates, officials said Friday. None of the agreements include the vaccines by Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech, which is already in use in the US, Canada and Britain and nearing approval in the European Union. The initiative WHO is co-leading, known as COVAX, also has yet to receive firm pledges and a timeline from rich countries to share the vaccines they have already secured for themselves. Of the approximately 12 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines the pharmaceutical industry is expected to produce next year, about 9 billion shots have already been reserved by rich countries. Canada is leading the pack, with around 10 doses reserved per Canadian, according to the science analytics company Airfinity. "This is fantastic news and a milestone in global health," said WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

WINTER WORRIES

Massive movement during holiday season raises fear of virus spread



The Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, the USA, has been closed in an attempt to contain the spread of Covid | AP

HEALTH

LONDON: Tens of millions of people are expected to travel to family gatherings or winter vacations over Christmas, despite pleas by public health experts who fear the result could be another surge in Covid-19 cases.

In the US, AAA predicts that about 85 million people will travel between December 23 and

January 3, most of them by car. If true, that would be a drop of nearly one-third from a year ago, but still a massive movement of people in the middle of a pandemic.

Jordan Ford, 24, who was laid off as a guest-relations worker at Disneyland in March, said he plans to visit both his and his friend's families in Virginia and Arkansas over Christmas. "It is

pretty safe — everyone is wearing a mask, they clean the cabin thoroughly," said Ford, who has travelled almost weekly in recent months from his home in Anaheim, California, and gets tested frequently. "After you get over that first trip since the pandemic started, I think you'll feel comfortable no matter what."

Experts worry that Christmas and New Year's will turn

into super-spreader events because many people are letting down their guard — either out of pandemic fatigue or the hopeful news that vaccines are starting to be distributed.

"Early on in the pandemic, people didn't travel because they didn't know what was to come," said Dr Peter Chin-Hong, disease expert at the University of California, San Francisco,

"but there is a feeling now that, 'If I get it, it will be mild, it's like a cold.'" The seven-day rolling average of newly reported infections in the US has risen from about 176,000 a day before Thanksgiving to more than 215,000 a day. It's early to calculate how much of that increase is due to travel and gatherings over Thanksgiving, but experts believe they are a factor.

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